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PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW SERIES

VOL. IV

APRIL, 1896

NO. 1

WHOLE NUMBER, 13



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Editor,
AMOS PERRY.

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This quarterly publication one dollar a year in advance; single numbers 50 cents each.

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OF THE

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ELECTED JAN. 14, 1896.

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PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW SERIES

VOLUME IV. 1896



PROVIDENCE

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY THE STANDARD PRINTING CO.

1896

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

1895-96.

At a meeting held Jan. 23, 1895, Hon. Thomas W. Bicknell, LL.D., read a paper entitled, "Rev. John Myles, the Associate of Roger Williams in the Matter of Religious Toleration."

February 5th, Col. T. L. Livermore, of Boston, read a paper entitled, "A Narrative of the Appomattox Campaign."

February 19th, the Rev. Dr. E. Benj. Andrews, President of Brown University, read a paper entitled, "Roger Williams, the Founder of Rhode Island."

March 5th, the Rev. Henry M. King, D. D., read a paper entitled, "A Summer Visit of Three Rhode Island Men to the Massachusetts Bay in 1651."

March 19th, the Hon. Edward L. Pierce, LL.D., read a paper entitled, "Personal Reminiscences of John Bright, Kossuth, Garibaldi and Mazzini."

At each of the above-mentioned meetings the Society extended its thanks to the speaker of the evening.

The first quarterly meeting for 1895 was held April 2d. The secretary read the record of the last annual meeting, and the librarian presented a report of additions to the library. Special mention was made of the receipt of the Earle, Rodman and Chadsey genealogies, and of the Watertown and Dedham town records.

On motion of Mr. A. V. Jencks, chairman of the nominating committee, Mr. Henry Clinton Clark was elected an active member.

Judge Stiness reported in behalf of a committee appointed at the annual meeting to memorialize the Commissioners of the State House in favor of having a statue of Roger Williams surmount the dome of the State House, which report was ordered to be recorded and placed on file. It was as follows :

To the Rhode Island Historical Society :

The committee appointed at the annual meeting to present to the State House Commission the resolution of this Society, expressing its opinion that a statue of Roger Williams should surmount the dome of the new State House, respectfully report: That on Saturday, Jan. 12, 1895, they met the commission at its rooms by appointment, and were most courteously received. They presented the resolution of the Society, with brief remarks setting forth some of the reasons on which it was based; whereupon the commission passed a vote of thanks to the Society for the interest it had taken in the matter, and some time was spent in an informal discussion of the subject. The commissioners assured your committee that the opinion expressed by the Society should receive due consideration. That it has met with popular favor is evident from the numerous articles approving it which have appeared in the public press.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. STINESS,
J. FRANKLIN JAMESON, } *Committee.*
CHARLES H. SMITH,

The secretary read an extract from a letter addressed to him by Gen. A. W. Greeley, of the War Department, Washington, in relation to the Rhode Island military rolls during the Revolutionary War, and also gave an abstract of a letter of Col. F. C. Ainsworth, who has charge of the Rhode Island military rolls in the War Department. These communications suggested the inquiry whether the national government has not better facilities for collecting and publishing the military records of this State during the Revolutionary War than the State itself. After an animated conference, decisive action was, on motion of Judge Stiness, deferred to an adjourned meeting to be held on the 16th instant.

On motion of Mr. William D. Ely, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That John Nicholas Brown, Esq., be respectfully requested to allow the Society to have copies made (either photographic or type-written) of the valuable documents which he purchased at the sale of the "Leffingwell Autographs." This Society considers these documents of highly material moment to Rhode Island history. They are of the first documentary authority,—and they relate to a very special epoch in the relations of Plymouth, Massachusetts Bay and Shawomet.

Resolved, That the chairman of the library committee make proper application to Mr. Brown, and have full authority to procure copies, to be made when the request of the Society is granted.

The adjourned quarterly meeting was held April 16th. Mr. Arthur May Mowry, of the Harvard Graduate School, read a paper entitled, "The Rhode Island Tariffs." Mr. Mowry received a unanimous vote of thanks for his valuable paper.

A letter from Col. F. C. Ainsworth, in relation to the publication of the Rhode Island military rolls during the Revolutionary War, was then read. At the conclusion of the reading, on motion of Mr. Charles H. Smith, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That the Society will to the fullest extent coöperate with the National Government in the policy indicated in the letter of Col. F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of Record and Pension Office, to our secretary, dated March 29, 1895, and to this end the librarian is directed by and with the advice of the president and library committee, to loan to the United States Government any military papers in the possession of the Society.

The July quarterly meeting was held July 2d. The librarian presented his quarterly report.

The secretary read a letter from Miss Caroline Hazard, expressing interest in the Society, and her readiness to comply with a request that she should bring out a volume under the auspices of the Society on Friends in Narragansett. The communication was referred to the publication committee.

John Nicholas Brown, Esq., received the thanks of the

Society for a copy of his valuable manuscript, known as the Leffingwell Autographs.

Mr. Edward I. Nickerson read a letter addressed to the secretary of the Society from Mr. James Tillinghast, of Buffalo, N. Y., expressing a warm interest in the objects of this Society. In behalf of the nominating committee, Mr. Nickerson recommended the following-named persons for membership, viz. : Thomas Davis, Joseph Le Roy Harrison, George Parker Winship, Isaac Lewis Goff, Frederick Arnold Vinton, of Providence, Albert Potter, of Chepachet, and John Francis Adams, of Pawtucket, who were elected active members, and Hattie Budlong Chaffee and Esek Arnold Jillson, of Providence, and James Tillinghast, of Buffalo, were elected life members.

The importance of definite action to secure the publication of the Rhode Island muster and pay rolls of the Revolutionary War was discussed, and on motion, Messrs. Wilfred H. Munro, Edward Field and John T. Blodgett were appointed a committee to memorialize the General Assembly relative to the Rhode Island military records of the Revolutionary War.

The third quarterly meeting of the year was held October 1st. The librarian presented his quarterly report, in which he made special mention of a silver goblet taken from the schooner Gaspee, and given by Mr. David Fisher, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; a marble bust of Pauline Wright Davis, given by the Hon. Thomas Davis; and the electrotype of the old Town House of Providence, given by Mr. Charles H. Smith.

The librarian reported that much interest had been manifested to have the paper by Mr. Henry C. Dorr, entitled, "The Proprietors of Providence and their Controversies with the Freeholders," printed in a volume by itself, and that one member of the Society had placed in the hands of the treasurer \$50, which is just one-third of the sum required to secure 300 bound volumes of the paper.

On motion of Mr. A. V. Jencks, chairman of the nominating committee, the following-named persons were elected active members: Timothy Newell, Byron J. Lillibridge,

George Boardman Lapham and Anthony McCabe, of Providence ; William Ray Greene, of Washington, R. I., and Hosea Starr Ballou, of Brookline, Mass. ; Robert Rodman, of North Kingstown, was elected a life member, and David Fisher, of Kalamazoo, Mich., corresponding member.

On motion of Mr. Eaton, the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. David Fisher for the highly prized gift of the goblet taken from the Gaspee.

On motion of Mr. William D. Ely, it was

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Edward Field for his personal care and attention in taking charge of the copying of the valuable Roger Williams letters of the Leffingwell collection, and for defraying the expenses connected therewith.

Mr. Charles H. Smith read the report of the committee appointed to consider the bequest of Dr. Charles W. Parsons to this Society. The report was accepted and ordered to be recorded and placed on file.

A resolution referred to in the report of the committee was then read by Mr. Smith, and after some explanation was unanimously adopted.

The following resolution was then read, and after explanations was unanimously adopted, and the secretary was instructed to record all the papers on which action had been taken during the evening relative to Dr. Parsons' bequest.

Resolved, That the bequest this day received from Thomas C. Greene, Esq., as the surviving executor of the will of the late Dr. Charles W. Parsons, be kept invested by the treasurer of this Society and be known hereafter as the Dr. Charles W. Parsons Improvement Fund.

October 15th, Hon. Horatio Rogers, President of the Society, read a paper entitled, "Mary Dyer, of Rhode Island, the Quaker Martyr that was hanged on Boston Common, June 1, 1660."

October 29th, Miss Ellen D. Larned, the historian of Windham County, Conn., read a paper entitled, "The Relations of Windham County and Providence."

November 12th, the Rev. E. H. Byington, of Newton, Mass., read a paper entitled, "The Early Puritan Ministers of New England."

November 26th, Miss Gertrude S. Kimball read a paper entitled, "The East India Trade of Providence from 1787 to 1807."

December 10th, Robert T. Swan, Esq., Commissioner of Records of the State of Massachusetts, read a paper entitled, "Some Observations on Public Records and Papers."

December 31st, Mr. Frank Greene Bates, a graduate and a Fellow of Cornell University, read a paper entitled, "Rhode Island and the Impost of 1781."

At each of these meetings the speaker of the evening received a vote of thanks from the Society.

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the Society was held Jan. 14, 1896, the president in the chair.

The secretary read a summary of the records of the last quarterly meeting and of six subsequent meetings.

The librarian read his annual report, which was received and referred to the publication committee.

The secretary read a letter from the secretary of the Gaspee Chapter of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, requesting permission for the said society to keep in the cabinet a suitable receptacle for its records and to hold its meetings statedly in the cabinet. The request was granted, and the business connected therewith was referred to the library committee.

Mr. Albert V. Jencks, chairman of the nominating committee, made a report recommending the following named persons for membership, and these were accordingly elected, viz.: Elizabeth Anne Shepard, Alonzo Williams, Samuel N. Smith, Elisha H. Rhodes, James Fanning Noyes, Charles Leonard Pendleton, all of Providence, Willis H. White, of Hillsgrove, Nelson Jenckes, of Woonsocket, Orray Taft, of Pawtuxet, Edward P. Taft, of Cranston, Thomas Jacob, of Pawtucket, were elected active members; and Charles Phelps Noyes, of St. Paul, Minn., was elected a life member.

The president of the Society, the Hon. Horatio Rogers,

read his annual address, which was received and referred to the publication committee.

The treasurer read his annual report, of which the following is a summary:

Receipts,	\$4,507 98
Expenses,	4,470 87
Cash on hand,	37 11
Investment Fund,	23,000 00
Publication Fund,	3,624 20
Life Membership Fund,	2,643 76
Dr. Charles W. Parsons Improvement Fund,	4,082 50

Mr. Edwin Barrows then read the annual report of the committee on grounds and buildings.

Mr. William D. Ely read the annual report of the library committee.

Rev. Dr. Vose read the annual report of the publication committee.

Mr. John O. Austin read the annual report of the committee on genealogical researches.

The annual report of the committee on necrology was made by Prof. W. H. Munro.

Mr. Charles H. Smith made a verbal report on behalf of the finance committee.

All the reports were received and referred to the publication committee.

The president stated that the next business was the election of officers, and he at the same time reminded members of his decision before announced to decline a reelection; the Rev. Dr. Vose declined reelection as a member of the publication committee; a letter written by the Rev. Dr. Andrews was read, declining reelection as a vice-president, and suggesting Mr. William B. Weeden as his successor.

The election was then held, and resulted as shown on pages 3 and 4.

On motion, a committee was appointed to draft and report resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the Society towards its retiring president, the Hon. Horatio Rogers.

The following is a copy of the report rendered by the committee :

The committee appointed to prepare a suitable minute with respect to the retirement of the Hon. Horatio Rogers from the office of president, beg leave to report the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of the Rhode Island Historical Society be presented to Gen. Horatio Rogers for his energetic and fruitful services as president of this Society during a term of nearly seven years ;

That the Society will always owe to General Rogers a debt of gratitude for his important share in causing the noteworthy advance which the Society has made during that period ;

That General Rogers carries with him into his voluntary retirement the best wishes of the Society, and their desires for his continued assistance and interest in their concerns.

(Signed) { J. FRANKLIN JAMESON,
 { JAMES G. VOSE,
 { JOHN W. DANIELSON.

The report was received and the resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the secretary was instructed to communicate a copy of them to Judge Rogers.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Gentlemen of the Historical Society:—

This seventy-fourth annual meeting finds our Society steadily progressing in its sphere of usefulness. The marked interest in historical matters that has characterized the last few years still continues unabated, and it is peculiarly gratifying that the history of our own State seems to command constantly increasing attention. This is particularly observable in the character of the papers read before the Society during the past year, when the number of Rhode Island subjects selected for treatment was unusually large. Books relating to the State, also, increase in number year by year, and it is hoped the day is not far distant when many unjust and distorted versions of Rhode Island history will be supplanted by truer and less prejudiced views.

During the last twelve months several volumes worthy of mention relating to the State have been issued from the press. One of the most important of these is the second volume of the Official Revision of the Adjutant-General's Report of 1865, containing a register of Rhode Island volunteers during the late Civil War. The two volumes of this work, containing with their indexes about 2,300 pages, were prepared by Gen. Elisha Dyer, until recently the Adjutant-General of the State, and reflect great credit upon him. Another distinctive Rhode Island work that has appeared during the year is the seventh volume of the "Vital Record of Rhode Island," edited by James N. Arnold, which volume contains lists of the births, deaths and marriages entered in the records kept by the Society of Friends of "Rhode Island, Narragansett, Smithfield, Kings Towne, Providence

and Swansey," and also lists kept by various clergymen in the State, of marriages performed by them.

The Record Commissioners of Providence during the past year have issued two volumes of Early Records of Providence, and also a volume entitled, "Fourth Report of the Record Commissioners relative to the Early Town Records," which embraces an Index to the Providence Town Records from 1642 to 1790, an Index to Paper Money Bank Mortgages, and an Index to Plats of Streets, Highways and Lands in and around Providence.

The most important work relating to Rhode Island, however, issued during the last twelve months, is the revision of the laws of the State, which will go into effect Feb. 1, 1896. Never in the same length of time have the laws of the State been altered to the extent that has occurred since the previous revision in 1882, and these alterations refer to many branches, including the practice of the courts, the laws relating to married women, to insolvency, to various rights of property, etc. In a former annual address I have adverted to the desirableness of having our early digest of laws reprinted, to the end that the origin, history and progress of our legislation might be easily traced, for now so scarce are copies that several hundred dollars are required to procure a set of such as money can buy, and some of them are hardly obtainable at any price. In the early portion of the past year Mr. Sidney S. Rider issued a *fac-simile* reprint of the very rare Digest of 1719, that being the first ever printed by the Colony of Rhode Island, and to his reprint he has added a valuable historical introduction, giving not only much information in regard to that particular digest, but also in regard to the folio digests which succeeded it, viz. : those of 1730, 1744, 1752, 1767 and 1772. The edition of the reprint was strictly limited to fifty copies and the price was thirty dollars a copy. The supplemental pages of the Digest of 1730 were so scarce that but two or three copies were known to be extant. Early in last December, Mr. Rider issued a *fac-simile* reprint of these likewise, embracing pages 211 to 283, inclusive, and coming down to the February session of 1736,

the edition consisting of only twenty-five copies, which sell at twenty-five dollars each. The same publisher has in preparation and nearly ready to issue, a limited edition of one hundred copies of the earliest digest of the laws of Rhode Island, the subscription price of which is forty dollars a copy. This digest was made in 1705, and is a codification of the laws from the first settlement of the colony. It has never before been printed, indeed it was not known to be in existence until about 1856, it having for a century and a half been hidden among the archives of the State.

Two of the most attractive books issued in regard to Rhode Island during the past or any other year, are entitled, "Among Rhode Island Wild Flowers," and "Early Rhode Island Houses, an Historical and Architectural Study," published by Messrs. Preston & Rounds. The former, a little book of but a hundred pages, by Prof. W. Whitman Bailey, of Brown University, appeared last summer, and gives some account of the wild flowers of Rhode Island. It has not been his purpose, the author tells us in his preface, to write a flora of the State, but rather in a familiar way, to call attention to the beauty of our indigenous plants and to record some of their haunts. This little book has been received with such favor that it is now in its third edition, and a perusal of it is heartily commended to all.

The other volume referred to, "Early Rhode Island Houses," appeared in the latter days of 1895, and it describes various old houses in the State still standing, which were erected prior to 1730. The authors of this most interesting work are Norman M. Isham, Instructor in Architecture in Brown University, and Albert F. Brown, also an architect. "Every house in the catalogue in Chapter IX.," say the authors in their preface, "has also been seen or examined either by ourselves or by Mr. Edward Field, Record Commissioner of the city of Providence, who has worked much with us and to whom our thanks are due, not only for his exploration but for the keenness with which he has run to earth the documentary evidence for the dates of the Providence houses." This volume is enriched with more than

sixty full-page illustrations, and is truly an historical and architectural study, forming a most valuable addition to the literature of Rhode Island.

During the twelve months that have just elapsed there have been, besides the four business meetings of the Society, twelve meetings for the reading of papers, and the list of subjects and authors of those papers, with the dates when they were read, is as follows, viz. :—

1. Jan. 23, 1895. "Rev. John Myles, the Associate of Roger Williams in the Matter of Religious Toleration," by the Hon. Thomas W. Bicknell.

2. Feb. 5, 1895. "A Narrative of the Appomattox Campaign," by Col. Thomas L. Livermore.

3. Feb. 19, 1895. "Roger Williams, the Founder of Rhode Island," by the Rev. Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews.

4. March 5, 1895. "A Summer Visit of Three Rhode Island Men to the Massachusetts Bay in 1651," by the Rev. Dr. Henry M. King.

5. March 19, 1895. "Personal Reminiscences of John Bright, Kossuth, Garibaldi and Mazzini," by the Hon. Edward L. Pierce.

6. April 16, 1895. "The Rhode Island Tariffs," by Mr. Arthur May Mowry.

7. Oct. 15, 1895. "Mary Dyer, of Rhode Island, the Quaker Martyr that was hanged on Boston Common, June 1, 1660," by the Hon. Horatio Rogers.

8. Oct. 29, 1895. "The Relations between Windham County and Providence," by Miss Ellen D. Larned.

9. Nov. 12, 1895. "The Early Puritan Ministers of New England," by the Rev. Dr. E. H. Byington.

10. Nov. 26, 1895. "The East India Trade of Providence from 1787 to 1807," by Miss Gertrude S. Kimball.

11. Dec. 10, 1895. "Some Observations on Public Records and Papers," by Robert T. Swan, Record Commissioner of Massachusetts.

12. Dec. 31, 1895. "Rhode Island and the Impost of 1781," by Mr. Frank Greene Bates.

During the year just closed one life member and five active

members have been removed from our Society by death. They are Le Roy King, Samuel W. Peckham, Wm. Jones Hoppin, Thomas E. Studley, Samuel G. Trippe and Prof. Eli W. Blake. A sketch of each of them will be found among the necrological notices in the printed proceedings of the Society.

The report of the librarian has so fully stated the condition of our literary and other treasures, and informed you of those to whose generosity we are indebted for donations, that I will pass on to other themes.

After the election of officers at the last annual meeting of this Society, it will be remembered, I announced that I should not again accept a reelection as president. This action on my part proceeded from no insensibility to or lack of appreciation of the high honor conferred upon me by being called again and again to preside over this distinguished old Society, but for quite a period, long antedating my elevation to this honorable office, I have been impressed with the belief that the good of the Society would be best subserved by rotation in the office of president after a term of about five years, and, though I have occupied the position for six and a half years, yet such occupancy for the last twelve months was not due to my own wishes. During the seventy-four years of the existence of this Society it has had but seven presidents, the longest term of office having been twenty-one years and the shortest but two years. The first president, Gov. James Fenner, resigned after a term of eleven years, and the other presidents died in office, with the exception, of course, of the present incumbent. A not too protracted occupancy of the presidential office by any one person cannot fail, in my opinion, to freshen and renew interest in the Society by infusing new life and vigor into the leading position, for each new occupant will desire to make his term of office successful, and will put new thought and effort into the attainment of that end ; and then, too, the very fact that so honorable a position would be attainable otherwise than through infrequent vacancies caused by the death of the occupant, would doubtless have a beneficial effect. I do not mean to advocate

an hard and fast rule to be laid down in the by-laws, which should invariably operate whatever the condition or exigencies of the Society for the time being at any given date might be, but I do believe it would conduce to the welfare of the Society should there be a tacit understanding, a kind of unwritten law, that the president should decline a reelection after an occupancy of the office for five years, unless there should be some exceptional condition existing that would require a longer service for the generally acknowledged good of the Society. Entertaining such feelings as I do, therefore, you will not misconstrue my desire to retire from the position with which your partiality has honored me and which I have felt so much pride in occupying.

I trust you will not attribute to vanity some reference to what has been accomplished during my term as president of this Society, for I am fully mindful that but a very slender portion of credit is due to me for what belongs to the united efforts of all our members.

My immediate predecessor in office, Prof. William Gammell, died April 3, 1889, and I was elected to succeed him at the quarterly meeting in July of that year. At the time of his death about twelve thousand dollars had been subscribed for an addition to our cabinet building, but no further step towards the proposed alteration had been taken. The total cost of the addition, including furnishing, was but little short of \$20,000, and the amount expended in renovating the interior of the old part, including the vestibule, new windows, gallery across the north end, painting the exterior, etc., was something over one thousand dollars, so that the total sum laid out on the building was \$21,000. The permanent funds of the Society have been increased by will and other donations nearly thirty thousand dollars, and the General Assembly has increased its annual appropriation from \$500 to \$1,500. During my term of office, therefore, nearly forty thousand dollars, including the amount that has become available under the Noyes will, has been contributed to the Society, and in the last eight years more than fifty thousand dollars has found its way into our treasury, not including, of course,

either members' dues or the annual appropriation by the State. For three years the Society has issued a quarterly publication, and it is hoped and believed that this work is now on an enduring basis. A volume of the collections of the Society has been published. The books have been rearranged and properly classified and partially catalogued. The pictures have all been put in condition and rehung; and the other objects of interest have been arranged in a room by themselves, a new safe having been provided for articles of special value. The centennial anniversary of Rhode Island's adoption of the Federal Constitution was celebrated by the Society with much spirit in 1890, and a very interesting and pleasurable excursion to Salem was made by the Society in 1891. Finally, the Society, it is believed, is in a thoroughly sound and healthy condition; perfect harmony prevails, and an active interest in the objects and purposes of the Society exists.

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of this Society is not far distant, and as the event would seem to be of sufficient importance to be marked by some special celebration, I would suggest that steps be speedily taken to insure a worthy observance of the occasion.

As decade succeeds decade, and the waning century gives place to a succeeding one, may this grand old Society go on performing its beneficent office of perpetuating the history of a State which must ever occupy a prominent position in the minds of men as the birthplace of the immortal principle of liberty of the soul.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Richmond P. Everett, Treasurer, in account with the Rhode Island Historical Society.

		DR.	
1895.			
Jan. 10.	Cash on hand,	.	\$211 98
1896.			
	State of Rhode Island,	.	1,500 00
	Interest from Investments of Samuel M. Noyes		
	and Henry J. Steere legacies,	.	1,319 46
	Taxes from 282 members,	.	846 00
	Taxes from 9 members, overdue,	.	27 00
	Taxes from 3 members, 1896 and 1897,	.	9 00
	Fees from 14 new members,	.	70 00
	From Publication Account,	.	173 50
	Interest from Publication Fund,	.	132 90
	Sale of Publications,	.	35 50
	For advertising on covers of Publications,	.	22 50
	Interest from Life Membership Fund,	.	97 64
	Sale of books,	.	55 00
	From Charles H. Smith for printing the Old Town		
	House in the Publication,	.	7 50
			<hr/>
			\$4,507 98

CR.

Salary of librarian,	\$1,200 00
Salary of janitor,	360 00
Library Committee,	1,356 70
Fuel and gas,	215 84
Postage, meetings and express,	452 42
Buildings and grounds,	119 86
Publications,	542 55
Insurance on contents of cabinet,	216 00
Standard Printing Co. (Old Town House),	7 50
Cash on hand,	37 11
	<hr/>
	\$4,507 98

Providence, Jan. 14, 1896.

We have examined the above accounts and find them correct.

LEWIS J. CHACE,

JAMES BURDICK,

FERDINAND A. LINCOLN,

Audit Committee.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

Richmond P. Everett, Treasurer, in account with the Rhode Island Historical Society.

DR.

1895.			
Jan. 8.	Cash on hand,		\$2,443 76
July 1.	James Tillinghast, of Buffalo, for membership,		50 00
18.	Hattie Budlong Chaffee, for membership,		50 00
25.	Esek A. Jillson, for membership,		50 00
Oct. 28.	Robert Rodman, for membership,		50 00
Nov. 2.	Interest for 1895, Jan. and July, Providence Institution for Savings,	\$44 04	
	Mechanics Savings Bank,	53 60	
			<u>97 64</u>
			\$2,741 40

CR.

1895.			
Nov. 2.	Interest from Providence Institution for Savings, and Mechanics Savings Bank, carried to general account,		\$97 64
1896.			
Jan. 14.	Cash on hand,		2,643 76
	Providence Institution for Savings,	\$1,090 90	
	Mechanics Savings Bank,	1,552 86	
			<u>\$2,643 76</u>
			\$2,741 40

Providence, Jan. 14, 1896.

We have examined the above accounts and find them correct.

LEWIS J. CHACE,
JAMES BURDICK,
FERDINAND A. LINCOLN,
Audit Committee.

PUBLICATION FUND.

Richmond P. Everett, Treasurer, in account with the Rhode Island Historical Society.

DR.

1895.			
Jan. 8.	Cash on hand,		\$3,797 70
May 13.	Interest from Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., Participation account,	\$66 45	
Nov. 12.	Interest from Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., Participation account,	66 45	
			<u>132 90</u>
			\$3,930 60

CR.

1895.			
May 13.	Interest from Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., carried to general account,	66 45	
Nov. 12.	Interest from Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., carried to general account,	66 45	
1896.			
Jan. 7.	To pay Standard Printing Co., carried to general account,	173 50	
14.	Cash on hand,	3,624 20	
	The income of \$3,600 can only be used for the expenses of this department.		
			<u>\$3,930 60</u>

Providence, Jan. 14, 1896.

We have examined the above accounts and find them correct.

LEWIS J. CHACE,
JAMES BURDICK,
FERDINAND A. LINCOLN,
Audit Committee.

DR. CHARLES W. PARSONS IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Richmond P. Everett, Treasurer, in account with the Rhode Island Historical Society.

DR.

1895.			
Oct. 7.	Received from Thomas C. Greene, executor of the estate of Dr. Charles W. Parsons,	\$4,000 00	
31.	Interest from Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co.,	5 00	
Nov. 1.	Interest from coupon,	2 50	
1896.			
Jan. 1.	Interest on mortgage,	75 00	
			\$4,082 50

CR.

1895.			
Oct. 7.	Richmond, York River and Chesapeake Railroad Bond,	\$1,000 00	
Dec. 28.	Mortgage, secured by note,	3,000 00	
1896.			
Jan. 14.	Interest in City Savings Bank,	82 50	
			\$4,082 50

Providence, Jan. 14, 1896.

We have examined the above accounts and find them correct.

LEWIS J. CHACE,
JAMES BURDICK,
FERDINAND A. LINCOLN,
Audit Committee.

INVESTMENT FUND, JAN. 14, 1896.

Legacy of Samuel M. Noyes,	\$12,000 00
" " Henry J. Steere,	10,000 00
" " John Wilson Smith,	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$23,000 00

Invested as follows :

Mortgage, secured by note,	\$5,000 00
" " " "	3,000 00
" " " "	3,350 00
" " " "	2,300 00
" " " "	1,750 00
" " " "	1,750 00
Six bonds of Minneapolis Street Railway Co.,	5,850 00
	<hr/>
	\$23,000 00

PUBLICATION FUND.

Legacy of Ira B. Peck,	\$1,000 00
" " William Gammell,	1,000 00
" " Albert J. Jones,	1,000 00
" " Julia Bullock,	500 00
" " Charles H. Smith,	100 00
Cash on hand,	24 20
	<hr/>
	\$3,624 20

Invested as follows :

Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co., participation account,	\$3,624 20
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DR. CHARLES W. PARSONS IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Invested as follows:		\$4,000 00
Mortgage, secured by note,	\$3,000 00	
Richmond, York River and Chesapeake Railroad		
Bond,	1,000 00	
Cash in City Savings Bank,	82 50	
	<hr/>	\$4,082 50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND.

		\$2,643 76
Providence Institution for Savings,	\$1,090 90	
Mechanics Savings Bank,	1,552 86	
	<hr/>	\$2,643 76

Providence, Jan. 14, 1896.

We have examined the above accounts and find them correct.

LEWIS J. CHACE,
 JAMES BURDICK,
 FERDINAND A. LINCOLN,
Audit Committee.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN AND CABINET KEEPER.

To the Members of the Rhode Island Historical Society:—

It is a pleasure to report that marked progress was made during the year 1895 in the work devolving on your cabinet keeper and his assistants. The collections of the Society consist not only of books and pamphlets stored in one room, as was formerly the case, but of several collections of various kinds arranged in a dozen rooms, each one of which has a definite object and requires special care and attention.

The erection of the new building with its enlarged accommodations implied enlarged views, aims and purposes. It was a deliberate step upward and onward, betokening not rest and ease, but increased life and activity. Instead of the old building, thirty by fifty feet, we now have five times the floor room and ten times the accommodations that we had in our old quarters. This change involves an annual expenditure—not five or ten times greater than before, but at least twice as great. To illustrate, ten tons of coal kept the old building warm. Now forty tons are required. It costs not twelve times as much to put and keep in order twelve rooms as one room, but three times as much. To guard and protect the property placed in so many rooms necessitates additional clerical force. The Society's collections of various kinds are now nearly double what they were when the change was begun. So great and so general an interest has been lately awakened in the objects and pursuits for which the Society was founded that it can hardly go back or stand still; it is virtually pushed ahead. Three kindred societies occasionally hold meetings in its quarters.

The inquiries are repeated on every hand : " Who were my ancestors ? Where did they live ? Did they take part in establishing the liberties of this country or in promoting the cause of humanity ? " Such inquiries, and the researches and investigations required to answer them, can hardly fail to elevate and ennoble the community. They constitute a means of education, if not a branch of it. The need of a strong, progressive institution devoted to historical and genealogical pursuits in these plantations was never more urgent than at this time. Unless this Society bestirs itself and moves on apace, another will arise and take the lead.

The Society is, in most respects, in much better condition than it ever was before. Yet it is, in one respect, sadly off. It has no adequate provision for defraying its current expenses or for publications and other enterprises that require ready cash. What should, or rather what shall, be done, is a question that merits careful consideration at this time. In attempting to answer it the Society may do well to avail itself of information as to the course pursued by the successful and efficient historical societies of the country. One fact is noteworthy ; namely, that without exception, they early provided themselves with permanent funds or had funds provided for them, the incomes of which, together with taxes, enabled them, with industry and scholarship, to carry forward the work for which they were organized. They not only obtained funds, but they have from time to time enlarged their funds to meet pressing demands on their resources.

Look, for example, at the Massachusetts Historical Society, with its scholarly men and wise provision for usefulness by means of its publications. Look at the New York Historical Society ; at the Pennsylvania ; the Maryland ; and at other noteworthy institutions in New England and the Middle States. Then look westward, where is the best, or one of the best, equipped historical societies in the country ; namely, the State Historical Society at Madison, Wisconsin, which is soon to occupy a library building erected by the State of Wisconsin at an expense of \$180,000. That society receives annually from the same source an appropriation which, to-

gether with taxes on its members and the income of permanent funds, enables it to accomplish a work that reflects credit on itself, its State, and its country. Minnesota has an historical society at its capital, St. Paul, of which it may well be proud. The Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society has already published twenty-four large, well-bound volumes of its collections. The admirable volumes of these societies, especially of those first mentioned, may be seen upon the shelves of this cabinet. It is a good omen that the great western historical societies are often, if not generally, established soon after the recognition of their respective State governments. Interest in family and local history prevails extensively throughout the enlightened portions of our country, and this interest, increasing year by year, is a good omen for the cause of civilization on this continent.

Rhode Island, which has a large amount of valuable historical material that needs to be worked up and utilized, is deeply interested in this direction. This statement is attested by individual and social enterprise, and by repeated acts of the General Assembly, some of which date back many years.

This Society existed more than three-score years without any permanent fund and with but very limited financial resources. This may have been its own fault ; for when it awoke from its lethargy and called for the means to fulfil its mission, there was a generous response. Within a very brief period more than fifty thousand dollars were paid into its treasury, about one-half of which has been expended on its building and the other half constitutes a permanent fund, which gives promise of a better day. This response to an appeal for the cause of history can be interpreted only in one way. It indicates an interest that will sustain the cause if the cause be fairly presented and urged.

The following incident that occurred more than a dozen years ago has a direct bearing on our subject. A member of this Society made a special call, carefully looking through our old cabinet. On going out he expressed satisfaction, and quietly added : "Your Society needs funds." In reply the hope was expressed that he would remember it in his will.

His prompt response was: "Don't be misled by my remark. I am committed to a cause which I regard as in the direct interest of the people from whom I sprang. I think highly of this Society and shall continue my annual subscription to it (twenty-five dollars and his tax) so long as I live. This Society has, I know, many wealthy members, who are bound to look after it and provide for its wants." This worthy man, Henry L. Kendall, passed away less than six months after this conversation, leaving a gift of \$300,000 to the public library of Providence. A like gift to this Society would afford the means of extending the knowledge and influence of Rhode Island history widely over the State and the country.

Persons who understand the condition of this Society are of the opinion that in order to be able to accomplish its mission, it needs, in addition to its present resources, the income of \$100,000, and the income of double this sum could be advantageously expended. The bequests since made by Messrs. Noyes, Steere, Gammell, Parsons and others, and also the money directly contributed, did not come about until their need was made known and urged, and we have no reason to expect that the present needs of the treasury will be supplied until they are made known and urged.

The Society cannot efficiently carry forward its work without a good amount of cash, as well as of industry, intelligence and scholarship. Much of the credit of its publications is due to the generosity and enterprise of some of its members, whose names are now recalled with sentiments of gratitude and honor. The manuscript copy of Volume I. of its Collections (Roger Williams' Key) was obtained in Oxford, England, and furnished to the Society by Mr. Zachariah Allen, and the money to pay the printer's bills was secured by subscription.* Volume II. of its Collections (Gorton's Simplicity's Defence) was edited, and the expense incurred for its publication was looked after, by the Hon. William R. Staples. Volume III. (History of Narragansett) was copyrighted and paid for by its author, the Hon. Elisha R. Potter. Volume

* The manuscript copy and the subscription list are still preserved.

IV. (Callender's Historical Discourse) was edited and looked after by Prof. Romeo Elton. Volume V. (Annals of Providence) was printed and copyrighted by its author, the Hon. William R. Staples. Messrs. Allen, Staples, Potter and Elton merit special expressions of honor. We have the portraits of all, except of the last, Professor Elton. Cannot his portrait be secured? While eight volumes of Collections have been published under the auspices of the Society, only three of them were paid for out of its treasury.

The Society has always been cramped for means to prosecute its work. Whose fault it has been matters not. A plain statement of the case should remove the cause of the trouble. The following facts are worthy of note in this connection. Two valuable historical papers, each replete with interest and of sufficient size to constitute a volume by itself, are about ready for publication. The index of nine great volumes of our Rhode Island Manuscripts, bound uniformly under the Providence commission on early town records, is ready for the press. An index of four volumes of military Revolutionary records is also ready for the press. A general index of the Society's "Proceedings" will soon be finished. Many old documents of decided interest and value are ever at hand. A bibliography of Rhode Island is called for, needed, and would, we think, be soon undertaken and completed, if the means of printing it were provided. Valuable historical papers that have been read before the Society would be printed if the funds were provided. One of these discourses, "A Century of Lotteries in Rhode Island," by the Hon. John H. Stiness, is now being printed as a private enterprise. Another, which has much to do with a fundamental principle of this State—the Hon. Horatio Rogers' Life and Martyrdom of Mary Dyer—merits a prominent place among the Society's publications. One paper, by Miss Ellen D. Larned, on the early relations of Providence and Windham County, Conn., contains biographical sketches and historical notes of decided interest. Miss Gertrude S. Kimball's sketch of "The East India Trade of Providence from 1787 to 1807," calls up scenes and events of olden times. Mr. Arthur May Mowry's paper

on "The Rhode Island Tariffs," with cullings from the old records of the Providence Custom House, and Mr. Frank Greene Bates' paper on the Impost of 1781, are a few of the papers that have been recently read. Looking back over a period of more than sixty years, we find that many scholarly papers that treat of our local history have been read before this Society. But not a dollar can be drawn from our treasury in its present condition to print any of them or to undertake and carry forward an enterprise worthy of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Society.

To enlist in historical pursuits its most accomplished scholars, the Society should be able to print their productions. It is pleasant to report the formation of classes for the pursuit of local history in different sections of the State, and it will afford still greater pleasure to see plans carefully drawn up and adopted for the systematic prosecution of work of this kind. Two papers are wanted at this time to be read before this Society: Washington's visits to this State, the dates and scenes and occurrences thereof; Lafayette's visits here and scenes and occurrences thereof; the French who settled here after the Revolution.

In his last annual report the librarian stated that he had been permitted to engage for a brief period an experienced clerk to index certain manuscript volumes. As already indicated a beginning has been made of this kind of library work,—a kind of work which the Society cannot afford to discontinue or to interrupt. Without an index the Society's valuable collections of manuscripts can be of comparatively little use. The work of this kind that needs to be taken up next is the indexing of the eighteen volumes of the Moses Brown Papers. Then, it is hoped, the numerous other series of family papers will be treated in the same way.

The Society published for twenty-one consecutive years (1872 to 1892 inclusive) an annual publication entitled "Proceedings." A general index of this series will, it is expected, be completed about as soon as this report goes to press. If this index be printed it will be a convenience to students and will greatly enhance the value of this series of

publications. The index will refer to the year when each "Proceeding" was printed. An inquiry has of late been repeatedly addressed to the librarian as to how these "Proceedings" should be bound. The reply has been returned that they are bound by this Society in four volumes, made up thus: Volume I., 1872 to 1875; Volume II., 1876 to 1880; Volume III., 1881 to 1887; Volume IV., 1888 to 1892. They may just as well be bound in three volumes of about the same size.

Three volumes of the Society's quarterly publication have been issued from the press. In entering upon the fourth volume it may be well for its friends to counsel together and see if its character cannot be improved and its usefulness increased without incurring any additional expense. Those who have contributed articles for the columns of the publication are thanked and requested to continue their favors. There are, we think, many other members and friends of the Society who wield a facile pen, and can, if they will, do much to improve the character of this publication and promote its usefulness. They can annotate and prepare for the press original manuscripts, and keep the editorial drawer supplied with brief, pithy articles, from which selections may be made. Whether the desired improvement and usefulness shall be secured depends upon a general coöperation to this end.

Volumes I.* and II. were distributed by authority of the Society only to subscribers or to persons and societies that were entitled to them by exchange. Volume III. was sent to life members without exception, and to active members after the payment of their annual taxes. The cabinet keeper is impelled to state that laggard taxpayers caused last year inconvenience and loss of time in this office and trouble to our worthy treasurer, who has gratuitously performed the duties of his office for thirty consecutive years. An earnest

*The title-page of Volume I. was not printed until long after the volume was completed. Persons who desire a copy of this page will accompany their request for it with a two-cent stamp. To secure uniform binding of these volumes, covers have been gotten up by H. M. Coombs & Co., which are sold at twenty-five cents each, or three dollars a dozen.

appeal is hereby made for the prompt payment of the annual dues.

The librarian deems it his duty to call attention to a manifest tendency to ignore the difference between rights enjoyed by members of the Society and courtesies extended to non-members. Let this tendency go on and the reasons for joining the Society will be weakened, if they do not cease to exist. Any citizen of the State has the right to examine, under the rules of the Society, the newspapers belonging to the State and the other State property, of which the Society is the custodian. The rights are clearly defined and well understood. It is the interest and the pleasure of the Society to exercise a generous hospitality. Persons who have come here from a distance, spending most of their time for days and weeks together in this cabinet, are welcomed to its privileges. Members like to see their library useful, and wish to do what they consistently can to this end, but they may well protest, as some of them do, against having their rights as members confounded with the courtesies extended to non-members. Such a lack of discrimination, if not of common sense, was once manifested in the Providence Athenæum, but it was of short duration. Ours cannot become in any proper sense a free library unless its financial resources are vastly increased and its organization is greatly changed. Further on in this report statements will be made that have a direct bearing on this subject.

There were added to the Society's collections during the year 1895 :

Bound volumes.....	316
Pamphlets.....	1,661
Miscellaneous articles.....	89
Total number of additions.....	<u>2,066</u>

These additions are all recorded in the accession book as gifts or as obtained either by purchase or by exchange. Some gifts not embraced in the foregoing lists comprise packages of various kinds. For example, a package of news-

papers, issued during the Civil War, and of special interest on account of their record of certain remarkable events, was given by Mr. William D. Ely. Mr. H. L. Dempsey, postmaster at Stillwater, R. I., has sent a collection of old lottery tickets, a circular of an old boarding-school, an old deed, advertisements, etc.

The largest and most remarkable package has been received since the close of the last year, and an account of it properly belongs to the librarian's annual report to be rendered a year hence. It is mentioned here to call attention to a kind of historic material that is liable and likely to be treated as rubbish and sent to the junk shop to get rid of it and at the same time to get a few coppers for spending money. Some serious losses have resulted from this lack of due consideration. The records of the public schools of Providence, that had been kept during a long period, were stripped of their binding and made into paper during our late war. Two women of Providence, highly intelligent and respectable, told the librarian less than thirty years ago that they had each burnt a trunk full of papers, most of them of the Revolutionary period, for two reasons. One object was, to get possession of the trunks in which the papers were kept; and the other was, to be spared the trouble of waiting upon callers who wished to see the papers.

The package, or rather bag, of papers now under consideration, consists of hundreds if not thousands of papers and weighs probably two hundred pounds. These papers relate largely to the history of the town of Exeter, R. I. They extend along a period of more than a hundred years from the early part of the last century until the middle of this century. Some idea of their nature may be gained from the following statement.

Many of the papers are warrants to the sheriff for arrests, for attachment of property, for summoning witnesses and juries, etc. Some of the most valuable are tax-lists, assessors' lists and estimates, made between 1761 and 1823. Many are memoranda relating to the probate court of the town, such as inventories, petitions, orders, judgments, wills, etc. Some

plans and orders refer to the laying out of highways, drift-ways, etc. Some papers refer to indentures of apprentices, and there is a great quantity of small bills, notes, receipts and orders, together with some printed proxies, lists of voters and some accounts of votes cast on each side. The Society is indebted to Mr. John Nicholas Brown for this collection, which must prove of great value provided sufficient clerical force is secured to assort, classify, arrange and index the papers. In getting up the history of the town where these papers were collected their value can hardly be overestimated, and they are likely to shed light on outside family and local history.

In concluding this part of his report the librarian can testify from personal observation that there are yet remaining in several other town-clerk offices in the State similar collections, which are generally regarded as trash, and which some clerks, knowing or caring little about their worth, would rejoice to have taken away. In some offices these papers, bound and unbound, are so eaten by worms that it is difficult to read them. How to secure the preservation of the historic material still left in the town-clerk offices of the State is an inquiry in which the giver of this package and the members of this Society are interested.

The number of books, pamphlets and articles of various kinds recorded in the accession book during any one year is not a fair index of progress or of the lack of progress. The number is by no means so important as the quality, character or value as historic material. Much time has usually to be spent in assorting miscellaneous contributions and picking out what are worth preserving. Musty old papers are sometimes more valuable than splendidly bound volumes. Two manuscripts that look somewhat like the writing-books of school children have just been received. They are the records of baptisms and marriages kept by the late Rev. Doctors Benedict and Gano, and were given to the Society by one of their descendants, Mrs. O. A. Washburn. Permission to copy these statistics and insert them in Volume VIII.

of the Vital Statistics of the State, has been asked and granted.

Mr. Albert Holbrook has shown his usual skill, industry and generosity, bringing out engraved pictures of several historic dwellings, together with sketches of their proprietors and occupants.

Mr. James R. Dorrance gave to the Society last year a fine suit of clothes that would be recognized at a glance as belonging to the colonial period of this country. It was worn by Sion Arnold, of Warwick, in the year 1740. It has the old style silver shoe-buckles and knee-buckles, and placed, as it now is, on a dummy in the second story of the cabinet, gives a pretty clear idea of a well-dressed man who lived a century and a half ago. Bishop Clark's model of the old Narragansett Church, in which Dr. McSparran preached, attracts many persons up two flights of stairs to the museum.

While making this report the librarian was shown seven pamphlets printed in Providence about the time when the art of printing was introduced here,—pamphlets that will be of value in tracing the art of printing in this town. Many gifts were received during the year 1895 that merit special mention. Some of them were named in quarterly reports and in the quarterly publication.

One recent gift is a picture of Concord, Mass., engraved in 1836, when some aged citizens were there to verify its accuracy and point out places where scenes and events of thrilling interest occurred on the 19th of April, 1775. This framed picture was given to the Society by Rev. Dr. William P. Tucker, of Pawtucket.

A splendidly illustrated folio volume of more than four hundred pages, entitled "Ancient Egypt," is the gift of Mr. Thomas Spencer Mitchell, of Providence. Another folio volume of a still larger size, entitled "Sylva Britannica; or Portraits of Trees," was given by Mr. Samuel A. Nightingale, of Providence. Dr. Horatio R. Storer has given a "List of Medals and Tokens of Rhode Island," a paper read before the Newport Historical Society, Feb. 18, 1895, a work of decided interest and merit. Vol. VII., Vital Statistics of Rhode

Island, by James N. Arnold, is received. The final volume of this valuable series is awaited with interest.

We take pleasure in stating that two town histories are at this time being prepared for the press by members of this Society. Hon. Thomas W. Bicknell is revising and enlarging his history of the town of Barrington. Mr. Thomas Jacob is making researches and investigations, preparatory to writing a history of what is now the city of Pawtucket, with 32,577 inhabitants. It would give us pleasure to herald work of this kind going on in every part of the State.

ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY.

Attention is next invited to a volume whose title-page is as follows: "History of the Military Company of the Massachusetts, now called The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. 1637-1888. By Oliver Ayer Roberts, Historian of the Company. Vol. I.—1637-1738. Boston, 1895." On the first inside page of the cover is a note of presentation to this Society from the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. Thus a military company of a neighboring State expresses its friendly sentiments towards this Society, whose business it is to record history. How is this? asks a friend who stands near by. It is just as it should be, is the reply. A kindly sentiment exists between that company and this Society, and they act accordingly. This library has a thick volume of manuscripts written by the first commander of that company. On the first page of that volume is that commander's autograph, of which the following is a *fac-simile*:

*Robert Mayne of Bost: New England his
Boobz 1643. price. 60*

The company was formed just a year after Roger Williams began his settlement on the banks of the Mooshasuck River. Mr. Roberts, the historian, has performed his task in a way to reflect credit on his industry and scholarship, and on the

company which he represents. The volume is illustrated, and throws light on the history of many Massachusetts families and some Rhode Island families that came early from Massachusetts. The late Hon. Francis Brinley was three times commander of that company; viz., 1848, 1852, and 1858, and subsequently for several years a vice-president of this Society; also, ex-commander, Capt. Albert A. Folsom, is claimed here as a Rhode Islander, notwithstanding the fact that his present residence is in Brookline, Mass. With decided commingling of friendly interests the Ancients and Honorables may rest assured that their gift will be highly appreciated in these Plantations. We are informed in an introductory note that this publication will contain a record of about six thousand members and will probably be comprised in four volumes. This ancient company has, aside from its remarkable records, a literature of its own. The records already printed show that 224 sermons have been delivered before the company at so many different annual elections since 1637, by eminent divines, several of whom, including Bishop Clark and Dr. Woodbury, were Rhode Islanders. Of its 146 printed sermons this Society has ninety-five. An acute critic has expressed the opinion that these sermons are generally tinged with sentiments akin to Roger Williams' doctrine of soul liberty.

Some of the valuable additions to the library are placed in the genealogical-room, and are named among the additions to that room.

Lists of institutions and persons accredited in the accession book with having made gifts to the Society during the year 1895, are inserted near the close of this issue.

THE GENEALOGICAL-ROOM.

The following is a list of the additions that were made to this room during the year 1895:

FAMILY GENEALOGIES.

Coffin, Harriot. Early wills illustrating the ancestry of. pp. 86.

Earle, Ralph, and his Descendants. 8vo, pp. 492.

Fenner Genealogy. Nos. 1 and 2 (bound).

- Hadley, Moses and Rebecca Page, of Hudson, N. H. Record of the Descendants of. 8vo, pp. 80.
 Long Island Genealogies. 8vo, pp. 347.
 Rodman Family. Genealogy of the. 8vo, pp. 287.
 Searight Family in America. 8vo, pp. 228.
 Stanton, Thomas, of Connecticut, and his Descendants. Record of. 8vo, pp. 613.
 Tracy, Thomas (Lieut.), of Norwich, Conn. The Ancestors of. 8vo, pp. 100.

GENEALOGICAL WORKS.

- American Ancestry. Munsell, Vol. X. 8vo, pp. 208.
 American Genealogies. Index to 4th Ed. 8vo, pp. 282.
 Block Island Epitaphs. 12mo, pp. 66.
 New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. XLIX. 1895.
 Vital Records of Rhode Island. Arnold, Vol. VII.

PAMPHLETS.

- Adams, William, of Ipswich, Mass. Some Descendants of
 Badcock Family of Massachusetts.
 Chadsey, William, and his Descendants. MS.
 Merriam Family of Massachusetts.
 Packard, Samuel. Celebration of the 250th anniversary of the landing of
 Puffer Family of Massachusetts.
 Sawyer, William, of Newbury, Mass. Some Descendants of

THE NEWSPAPER-ROOM

Is, in an historical point of view, second to no room in the cabinet. Papers of comparatively recent date are consulted to establish titles to real estate, while those of an early period are fountains of information on a variety of subjects. A carefully prepared statement of the condition of several sets of early Rhode Island newspapers has been begun, and will constitute a part of the librarian's report a year hence. It is a painful fact that some injuries have been committed in the newspaper and genealogical rooms by unscrupulous visitors. Meanwhile, in his efforts to complete defective newspaper files and preserve all historic material, the librarian bespeaks the cordial coöperation of members and friends of the Society.

TWO IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.

Two improvements might well be made and enjoyed at the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Society; namely, suitable seats in the auditorium and the renovation of the basement of the old cabinet. The basement of the new part of the cabinet is fireproof, and is in excellent condition, while the basement of the old cabinet remains substantially as it was built fifty-two years ago. During this long period the timbers have been seasoned and dried as if to invite a fire. The cost of these improvements has been estimated at about fifteen hundred dollars.

Respectfully submitted,

AMOS PERRY,
Librarian and Cabinet Keeper.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The library committee, on this seventy-fourth annual meeting of the Society, beg leave to report:—

That the library has been open on week-days throughout the year, except during the month of August,—Mr. Amos Perry, secretary of the Society, being librarian. In August the library was opened every Saturday.

The accessions to the library of the Society, during the year, have been:—

Bound volumes.....	316
Pamphlets.....	1,661
Miscellaneous.....	89
Total	<u>2,066</u>

The expenditures of the committee on the library for the year, have been :—

Books and periodicals.....	\$99 80
Bindery bills.....	64 50
Stationery.....	14 30
Cataloguing and indexing books and manuscripts..	721 10
Janitor and service of the cabinet.....	457 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,356 70
	<hr/>

For all special details and statistics, as to the acquisitions and operations of the library and cabinet, reference is to be had to the full and elaborate report of the librarian and cabinet keeper, to whose province they specially belong.

Your committee will merely state in general terms, that with the much more numerous visitors, and increased duties imposed by the new and enlarged cabinet, they have deemed it of the first necessity to maintain efficiency in the administrative service of the library, and develop the advantages and information it can furnish, as fully as possible under the straitened conditions imposed by the limited means at their command.

As vital to this, the work of cataloguing has been steadily pressed forward, and that of indexing the manuscripts and other volumes has not only begun, but considerably advanced.

The importance of a steady prosecution of this work, and larger means for bringing to clear and ready view, not only the names, but the subjects and character of all articles comprised within these manuscripts, cannot be too strongly stated or too strenuously urged on the members of the Society.

These indexes are essential to a knowledge of the contents of these manuscripts, which are no doubt the richest sources of new facts and information relating to the local history of the town and the State, which are in possession of the Society.

The students of history, and the members of the Society conversant with them, are the most emphatic in the assurance of their great intrinsic worth.

At no point do your committee see a more efficient place for working, or a richer mine of historic wealth awaiting discovery, than in these written volumes — so long and so much obscured.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM D. ELY,
HOWARD W. PRESTON,

Library Committee.

REPORT OF PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

The publication committee of the Rhode Island Historical Society beg leave to report that the four numbers of Volume III. have been issued with commendable promptness, and have met, as far as appears, with general approval.

Great credit is due to the editor, Hon. Amos Perry, who has spent much time and pains in preparing the numbers.

The printers' bills which have been paid and properly audited, are as follows :—

March 25, 1895, printer's bill, Vol. III., No. 1.....	\$120 00
July 8, 1895, " " " No. 2.....	133 15
Oct. 7, " " " No. 3.....	115 90
Jan. 8, 1896, " " " No. 4.....	173 50
	<hr/>
	\$542 55
	<hr/>

Credited for publications sold.....	\$35 50
Cash received for advertising.....	22 50
	<hr/>
	\$58 00
	<hr/>

Total expended.....	\$542 55
Deduct for sales and advertising.....	58 00

Total expenses.....	<u>\$484 55</u>
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Due for advertisements.....	\$10 00
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The enclosed subscription list is also submitted, which will explain itself.

JAMES G. VOSE,
Chairman.

We, the subscribers, believing Mr. Henry C. Dorr's paper, entitled, "The Proprietors of Providence and their Controversies with the Freeholders," to be a contribution to the early history of the Providence Plantations worthy of being printed in a volume by itself, hereby agree to pay the treasurer of the Rhode Island Historical Society the sums affixed to our respective names to secure for that Society three hundred bound volumes of the said paper; the estimated cost being \$150.

Name.	Amount-
William Ames,	\$50 00 Paid.
Horatio Rogers,	10 00 Paid.
Charles H. Smith,	5 00 Paid.
G. M. Carpenter,	5 00 Paid.
Augustine Jones,	5 00 Paid.
Albert Holbrook,	10 00 Paid.
William G. Weld,	5 00 Paid.
John Nicholas Brown,	10 00 Paid.
Charles E. Carpenter,	5 00 Paid.
George C. Nightingale,	5 00 Paid.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS.

To the Rhode Island Historical Society:—

The committee on buildings and grounds respectfully report that the property of the Society in their charge is in good condition, and that the amount expended for maintenance during the past year is \$119.86.

For the committee,

I. H. SOUTHWICK, JR.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHES.

The committee on genealogical researches respectfully report: A steadily growing interest in family history is evidenced in several ways, notably in the many inquiries made personally and by letter. Our best work can perhaps be done in aiding these inquiries to the extent of our power. We renew our suggestion that members leave lists with the librarian of genealogical works that it is desired should be added. When the book itself is given, as frequently happens, the donor may rest assured that it is thoroughly appreciated. The card catalogue will show what works are owned, and how many are needed.

For the committee,

JOHN O. AUSTIN.

NECROLOGY.

THOMAS EARLE STUDLEY.

Thomas Earle Studley was born in Worcester, Mass., Oct. 29, 1836. His father's name was Zenas. He received his education in the public schools of his native city. When quite young he went to New York city, and was at first a salesman in the wholesale drug house of Lewis Lazell. Subsequently for several years he was connected with the banking house of Drexel & Morgan. A serious and almost fatal illness compelled him to relinquish this connection. After some time spent in regaining his health, he came to Providence in 1865, and for a few months was in the employ of the National Rubber Company. In 1866 he and his brother, Mr. J. M. Studley, became partners in a rubber house, under the firm name of A. C. Eddy & Studleys. The house had already had an existence of ten years, the original firm being Garfield & Eddy. For twenty-seven years he remained identified with the business, the firm being known more recently as Studley Brothers. He retired from the firm in 1893.

Mr. Studley was known and esteemed by a large circle of friends as a refined Christian gentleman. He was a man of strictest integrity in all his business relations, a public-spirited citizen, and a most genial neighbor and friend. By his agreeable and cultivated manners and by his upright character he won the esteem and confidence of all who knew him.

He was a member, at the time of his death, of the First Baptist Church, in which, as in other churches, he had been honored by election to official positions. He was elected to membership in this Society in 1891. He died suddenly, June 2, 1895, of heart disease, in New York city, whither he had gone on business two days before.

SAMUEL WARDWELL PECKHAM.

Samuel Wardwell Peckham was born in Providence, July 5, 1814, and died there June 29, 1895, the son of Thomas Peckham and Sarah Wardwell, both of whom belonged to old Rhode Island families. His father was born in Middletown, R. I., and was a descendant of the Peckhams who were among the first settlers of Aquidneck. His life was spent almost entirely in the service of his country in the custom houses in Bristol and Providence, principally in Providence, becoming finally collector of the port. Sarah Wardwell Peckham was the daughter of Captain Wardwell, of Bristol, R. I., a member of the well-known firm of Bourne & Wardwell, that did so much a hundred years ago to establish the prominence of Bristol as a commercial port. The Peckhams of Aquidneck were originally Quakers. But, in the change of belief that characterized that period, Thomas Peckham became a Unitarian, and his family of seven children were all brought up in that faith.

Samuel Wardwell Peckham entered Brown University at the age of fourteen, as was not unusual at that period. He was graduated in 1832 with the degree of A. M. He was the last survivor of the twenty-three members of his class. He taught school a few months after his graduation and then studied law in the office of Richard W. Greene, afterwards Chief Justice of this State. He was admitted to the bar in 1836. He was Justice and Clerk of the Court of Magistrates in this city from 1846 to 1853, and Justice of the Police Court from 1857 to 1867. During the summer of 1857 he was Clerk of the Municipal Court. But his studious habits and retiring disposition led him away from the active pursuit of his profession as an advocate before the courts.

For many years, however, he acted as a Master in Chancery. An examination of the records of our Supreme Court shows that during a period of more than thirty years many cases of the first magnitude were thus referred to him in the settlement of disputed questions in equity. In 1854 he served as one of the representatives from this city in the General

Assembly. Although urged by his many friends, prominent members of the bar and others, to allow his name to be presented as a candidate for election as a member of the Supreme Court, he refused his consent; nor, although urged by his friends, would he consent to accept a nomination as mayor. The sad manner of the death of his wife, Margaret Dunnell, daughter of Jacob Dunnell and Mary Wanton (Lyman) Dunnell, in 1849, only three years after their marriage, left a lasting imprint on his character. She died of small-pox, carried from a client who visited him in his office. His devotion to her memory through all these years, known only to those nearest and dearest to him, was made manifest to all upon his death by his gift to the Rhode Island Hospital of \$4,000 to establish a free bed in her name.

His hatred of slavery led him to join the Republican party when it was formed. Without taste for political life, he was, however, prevailed upon by his friends to serve his native city as alderman, and he was elected in 1875 and again in 1880 and 1881. His keen sense of honest management of funds held in trust by the city for the benefit of the poor led him to take a stand against the old custom of banquets for the members of the Board of Alderman and their friends at the quarterly meetings held at the Dexter Asylum. By his vigorous opposition he succeeded in securing the abolition of these banquets. There are instances in England of the extension of such customs until the income of the trust fund becomes largely diverted from the purposes of the founder, and is used for dinners like these or for other unwarranted purposes.

His love of belles-lettres led him to take an early interest in the Providence Athenæum, and through life he was its earnest supporter and friend. He was its librarian and a director from 1836 to 1838, and its secretary and a director from 1836 to 1845, and again from 1856 to 1857. He was elected a director in 1849 and served forty-one years as a member of its board of directors. Indeed, he remained constantly one of its directors, except during such years as he was ineligible, the rules of the Athenæum requiring a period of at least one year to intervene between reelections. In 1888 he

was elected president of the Athenæum, but declined the office with characteristic modesty. At the earnest solicitation of his friends he consented to serve as its president in 1889, and he was annually reëlected, dying in office. He was the last survivor of the first board of directors of this institution, elected in 1836. The annual reports of 1844, 1850, 1883 and 1886 were from his pen. The last is especially noteworthy, for it contains a historical account of the Athenæum, written at its semi-centennial by one who took part in its organization fifty years earlier.

His strong interest in educational matters led to his election as a member of the school committee of this city from 1845 to 1849, and again from 1855 to 1857.

Through life he wrote fugitive poems for his relatives and friends, many of which are especially dear to them through the associations connected therewith. It was one of the pleasures of his late years to gather these poems and to print them for private distribution. But he never could be induced to allow them to be published.

He was a great lover of music in its highest forms, and through life subscribed to the various movements designed, through the formation of musical societies and the rendition of operas, oratorios and symphonies, to promote in this community a better appreciation and knowledge of the highest form of art of this century.

Unlike most college graduates, he kept up his studies after graduation, and thus became familiar with French and German, extending also his knowledge of Latin and Greek. So profound was his love of learning that he took up the study of Hebrew when he was over sixty years old, and learned to read the Old Testament in the original. He was a keen observer of nature, and studied botany. Philosophy also had attractions for him, and theology as well. The extent and variety of his reading and acquisitions were known only to those who knew his inner life. To others he appeared a quiet gentleman of unostentatious tastes. He set himself high ideals and remained true to them through life. But had he been a little less retiring and seclusive, he would have

been better appreciated and the community would have exacted more of him.

Without the defects of the Puritan character, he illustrated its best qualities when combined with scholarship and a love of nature and art.

Although it may not have been realized by the world at large, by his death the community lost a man of sterling worth and strong character, a man like whom would there were more. He was honored throughout his life for his strict integrity and uprightness. By his death the class of 1832 lost its last survivor, the bar lost its oldest member, and the Providence Athenæum lost the last survivor of its first board of directors.

THOMAS DAVIS.

[Thomas Davis was born Dec. 18, 1806, in Kilkenny, Ireland, and died July 26, 1895, in Providence, R. I., where he arrived in childhood and resided during the rest of his life. He survived his election as a member of the Society only a few days. Instead of a formal necrological notice the following reminiscences, from the pen of an intimate friend, Mr. John N. Arnold, are inserted.—ED.]

My first remembrance of Mr. Thomas Davis dates back about forty years, to the time when he lived in a cosy little cottage on Smith's Hill, before he moved to his more stately mansion at Davis Park.

Mrs. Paulina Wright Davis invited several of the art students to meet some of the recognized leaders of art and literature, and it was with considerable trepidation and many misgivings that we accepted the invitation. It was our first outing among those whom we had known by reputation as judges of everything pertaining to æsthetics, and we wondered how we should conduct ourselves under such trying circumstances. We knew also that Mr. Davis had thrown down the gauntlet to the slaveholders in Congress, and that his wife had presided over the first convention of women suffragists ever held on this continent, and while we felt tender-hearted towards the slaves and doubly so towards the

women, we were profoundly ignorant of the subjects as a matter of politics, and we were much concerned to know what to say if a question relating to those subjects should suddenly be propounded to us. As near as I can remember, Lewin, the wittiest of all, suggested that as Tom Robinson had the most brains and the poorest delivery, he should be shoved forward—in case such a calamity as a conversation upon male or female politics should be sprung upon us—to take the brunt of it, as by his rambling and somewhat incoherent manner of presenting his ideas, no one would understand what he was talking about, and his lack of lucidity would be mistaken for profundity of thought, and by this bright idea we should escape the charge of being ignorant of the questions which were then agitating the nation.

But it is the unexpected that happens. There was not a word of politics of any kind. Mrs. Davis welcomed us with a charm and a graciousness of manner that reduced our awkwardness to a minimum and placed us entirely at our ease. She was the antipodes of the typical woman's-rights woman, as depicted by the funny fellows of the press. Her dress was in exquisite taste, and she had the rare faculty of making a mixed company feel comfortable and at home. And withal she was a beautiful woman, of the intellectual type, as the marble bust by Paul Akers (a friend of Hawthorne's, whom he mentions in the "Marble Faun"), now owned by the Historical Society, will testify. We passed a most delightful evening, and friendships were then formed which lasted through life.

I remember the interest with which I listened to a conversation between Sarah Helen Whitman and Mrs. Davis as to the relative merits of Hamlet and Macbeth; and time has not dimmed the picture stamped on memory's tablet, of Mrs. Whitman, then in the strength of her poetic power, with her most musical voice, typical of the sweetness and harmony of her inner nature, defending her ideal poet, Edgar A. Poe, from the unjust aspersions of his biographer, Dr. Griswold.

I alone am left of that evening's gathering. Charon has ferried them all across the Styx, and I am left standing on

the river's brink, listening for the dip and splash of the grim ferryman's oar.

It was about this time that Mr. Davis was credited with high political ambitions—possibly he had them, I was too young to take much interest in politics and cannot judge—but if he had high political ambitions they were subordinate to his ideas of right and justice. In those days the name of Abolitionist was not considered a winning shibboleth by the shrewd politician. In ante-bellum days, the road to political preferment was not through sympathy with the “underground railroad,” or by standing between the United States Marshal and the tattered, hungry, and footsore fugitive slave, struggling to escape from the fangs of the unleashed bloodhounds of the South.

In 1852 the Rhode Island Democrats nominated Mr. Davis to represent them in Congress. He refused to accept the position as their candidate upon the ground that he was not in accord with his party on the slavery question. But the committee urged him to stand, saying they would overlook his heresy on that point. He was elected in spite of his being an Abolitionist, proving his popularity with the masses as an honest man and one in whose integrity they could rely.

In May, 1854, Mr. Davis made a speech in the House of Representatives, which created a sensation at the time, and was largely quoted from by the newspapers, North and South. It was upon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Helper, in his celebrated “Impending Crisis,” said of it: “One of the best speeches ever made on the Kansas question, a speech replete with irrefutable facts and arguments, the delivery of which at once distinguished him in Congress and throughout the country.”

A copy of this speech is now before me, from which I extract the following paragraph:

“No, no, gentlemen; Northern politicians who tell you Abolition is dead, deceive you, if they are not themselves deceived. There is no death to Abolition but by the death of slavery. It still lives, and will survive all assaults; it bears a charmed life; it is a sentiment, and essence, and can never

die ; its home is in the purified hearts of all who love liberty, truth, and justice. It is the principle and power that has by degrees in the Old World, weakened or superseded feudalism, absolutism, monarchy, and aristocracy ; and can you suppose it will leave this worse than either, to grow and extend itself on this new continent ? Never ! never ! By a law more absolute and binding than either Constitution or Congress can make or execute, by the law of necessity and progress, it is doomed to a speedy destruction."

Brave words, these, in Washington in 1854. Charles Sumner—a few years later—was struck down in his seat by a bludgeon in the hands of Brooks, of South Carolina, and borne bleeding and senseless from the Senate chamber, for uttering ideas like these ; for in those days it was the habit of Southern statesmen to club Northern statesmen who were so imprudent as to suggest that slavery was not a divine institution, especially if they were so discourteous as to prove their suggestion by facts and figures. Only a few years before, Garrison, for similar sentiments, was dragged through the streets of Boston by a mob with a rope around his neck, and the State of Georgia (as he once told me) had offered \$5,000 for his head.

I fear the space allotted to me for this sketch is full, while as yet the more picturesque and salient events in the life of this unique personality are untold, events so rare and out of the common run that they would furnish good material for romances to a Stevenson or a Conan Doyle. But having dwelt upon the political side of his life, I will finish by relating an incident which was characteristic of his simplicity and lack of political cunning and tact. In a speech which he made in Providence he vouchsafed the prophecy that Garrison's name would be remembered long after Henry Clay's and Daniel Webster's should be forgotten. This, of course, was rank treason, and his enemies rang the changes upon it for years after, and no doubt it hurt him politically, but he thought it and he had to speak, and, after all, perhaps he was more than half right ; for even in these days who shall determine which is surrounded by the most admirers, the bronze

statue of Webster fronting the gilded dome, or the bronze statue of Garrison on Commonwealth Avenue.

When I think of Mr. Davis there are three lines that come uppermost in my mind, lines from his favorite Shakespeare, which admirably describe one of his strongest traits :

“ He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for his power to thunder. His Heart’s his mouth ;
What his breast forges, that his Tongue must vent.”

SAMUEL GARDINER TRIPPE.

Samuel Gardiner Trippe, son of Abner and Bethia Trippe, was born in Providence, June 9, 1819, and died Aug. 31, 1895. He was the youngest of nine children, and the last surviving member of his family. He was married March 2, 1844, to Lydia A. Winsor, who died July 22, 1891. Five children were born to them ; one only, a married daughter, survives.

He was an active business man until the railway accident at Quincy. While going from his summer home at Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., to Boston, five years ago last August, he received a nervous shock, from which he never recovered.

In business he was connected with the Fletcher Manufacturing Company for a period of fifty-four years, serving as their Boston agent for upwards of thirty years, and during his long business career he also held many other positions of trust.

For many years he was an officer of the First Light Infantry, joining that regiment in his early manhood. He was one of the three detailed by Governor Sprague to bring home the bodies of four Rhode Island officers that were buried on the field after the first battle of Bull Run.

Mr. Trippe was of a benevolent nature, and his kindly assistance and private deeds of charity were so unostentatiously done that few except those who received their benefit will ever know of them. He possessed the qualities which go towards the making of a good citizen ; namely, honesty, industry, and intelligence.

He was the oldest member of the Vestry of St. John's Church, and was a frequent delegate to the Convocation of Providence, as well as to the Diocesan Convention. He was also a senior warden of Grace Episcopal Church, Vineyard Haven, Mass., for a term of years, until obliged to resign on account of ill health. Mr. Trippe became a member of this Society in 1875.

WILLIAM JONES HOPPIN.

William Jones Hoppin was born April 21, 1813, in Providence, where he died Sept. 3, 1895. He was the son of Thomas C. and Harriet D. Hoppin. He was the grandson of Col. Benjamin Hoppin, who took an active part in the Revolutionary War. He was also the grandson of Governor William Jones, a sketch of whose life, written by him, was printed in the "Proceedings" of this Society, 1875-76. Mr. Hoppin received his early training in the schools of Providence. He entered Yale College in 1828, remaining there for two years, and graduating at Middlebury College, in Vermont, in 1832. He received afterward two honorary degrees from Yale. He studied law with Judge Burges a short time, and then went to Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1835. That same year he sailed for Europe for the first time, remaining abroad some twenty months. On his return to this country, in 1837, he went to New York to live, and connected himself in the practice of law with the late Stephen C. Williams. He there acquired a large practice, and was entrusted with many important cases, being also trustee for several large estates, including that of the late William S. Wetmore. Senator George Peabody Wetmore was his ward until attaining his majority. Mr. Hoppin was one of the founders of the Century Club, in 1846, and president for two years of the Union League Club. He was the originator of the American Art Union, one of the early trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and of the New York Society Library. He was also connected with many other useful associations of an artistic, literary, and charitable nature,

which brought him into intimate relations with every good work for the advancement of the metropolis. He was one of the art jurors sent to the Paris Exposition of 1867, and in 1876 was appointed by President Grant First Secretary of the United States Legation, at London. He remained there for ten years, with Ministers Pierrepont, Welch, Lowell, and Phelps. In this position he became acquainted with all the leading personages in the artistic, literary, and political life of London. Since his return to the United States, in 1887, Mr. Hoppin has resided in Providence, and to the last has kept in close touch with current affairs. Although afflicted by many bodily infirmities, his mind was unclouded until the peaceful close of his life. He was never married, and out of a family of twelve brothers and sisters, only three survive him. He was a member of the New York branch of the Society of the Cincinnati, being descended from families famous in colonial and Revolutionary times. Mr. Hoppin was elected a corresponding member of this Society in 1874. On his removal to Providence in 1889 he became an active member, reading papers before the Society, and in other ways manifesting interest in the usefulness of the institution. Most of this article appeared in the Providence *Journal* at the time of Mr. Hoppin's death.

ELI WHITNEY BLAKE.

Professor Blake was born in New Haven, Conn., April 20, 1836 ; he died in Hampton, Conn., Oct. 1, 1895.

He was graduated at Yale in the class of 1857, being a member of D K E, the Skull and Bones, and other societies. After graduation he devoted a year to teaching in a private school at Unionville, Conn., and subsequently another year to study in the Sheffield Scientific School. Next he studied in Germany for three years and a half,—at Heidelberg under Bunsen and Kirchhoff, at Marburg under Kolbe, at Berlin under Dove and Magnus. He devoted his attention to both chemistry and physics ; for although he became ultimately a physicist, it was his original intention to be a chemist. Upon his return, he was for a year

(1866-67) professor of chemistry and physics in the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College; for the year 1868-69, acting professor of physics in Columbia College, New York; and later, professor of physics and mechanic arts at Cornell University, then just opened. From 1870 to 1895 he was Hazard professor of physics in Brown University. It was in his term of service that the institution received from the late George F. Wilson a bequest of above one hundred thousand dollars, to be devoted to a physical laboratory. Wilson Hall, immediately erected, will long stand, a monument to the generous donor; but it is also a monument to Professor Blake, to whose able, unwearied, and conscientious labors are largely due its appropriate and convenient arrangements.

By nature Professor Blake had very strong mechanical and scientific tendencies. Indeed, they were in the blood; for he was grandnephew of Eli Whitney, whose cotton-gin was an epoch-making machine. He was son of Eli Whitney Blake, of New Haven, himself a scientific man, manufacturer, and an inventor.

Professor Blake was an indefatigable worker in the laboratory. He was there from morning to night. He pursued experimental study in every department of physics, oftenest with apparatus of his own designing and the product of his own hands. Of his scientific writings, the following are known to the writer:

1. *Stereoscopic Advertisements* (Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, 1860, 30, 304).
2. *On the Presence of Rubidium and Cæsium in Triphyline* (*ib.* 1862, 33, 274).
3. *On a Method of Producing, by the Electric Spark, Figures Similar to Those of Lichtenberg* (*ib.* 1867, 49, 289).
4. *A Method of recording Articulate Vibrations by Means of Photography* (1878, *ib.* 3 S. 16, 54).
5. *The Human Ear-Drum* (Journal of Otology, Boston).

Professor Blake received the honorary degree of A. M. from the University of Vermont and State Agricultural School, and the degree of LL.D. from Brown University.

During his residence in Providence he performed his full share of service to the public, being a member of the Board

of Trustees of the Rhode Island Hospital; president of the Free Kindergarten Association; vestryman of St. John's Church; member of the Providence School Committee, and from time to time of other committees for securing public improvements. As a member of the Rhode Island Historical Society, he frequently participated in its meetings and discussions, and was much interested in its advancement.

Owing to the ill health of a member of his family, he resigned his professor's chair, to take effect June, 1895; but before that date he was taken slightly ill himself, and he did not recover. His constitution was weakened by the continuous and confining labors incidental to his profession, and he died after an illness of about five months.

He was twice married, his second wife, Elizabeth Vernon Blake, surviving him. By his first wife, who was a sister of Prof. Ogden N. Rood, he leaves two children,—a son, Eli Whitney Blake, a brilliant young man, alumnus of Brown University (1888) and of the Harvard Law School (1891) and now of Syracuse, N. Y.,—and a daughter, Mrs. Barclay Hazard, of California.

Especially to those who knew Professor Blake, this cold, brief and formal notice of his career affords no true picture of the man himself; for in addition to mental powers of a high order he possessed exceptionally noble moral qualities.

His associates in Brown University recognized the clear and philosophical method by which he considered the many educational and practical questions which a university faculty must continually meet. His pupils could not fail to appreciate his intense and genuine interest in their advancement. His sincere devotion to truth led to a conscientiousness, a high sense of honor, and great moral courage,—beautiful elements of character which he wore like parts of himself, and in no sense as garments, to be put on and off. He was one of the most unselfish of men. He was the warmest and truest of friends. While he devoted little time to society, he was welcomed as a brilliant writer and talker, and as an affectionate and delightful companion. Pure in heart, knightly in conduct, he was thoroughly a Christian gentleman.

LE ROY KING.

Le Roy King was born in Rome, Italy, Feb. 22, 1857, and died in New York, Dec. 5, 1895. He was the second son of the late Edward and Mary Augusta (Le Roy) King, of Newport, R. I., and grandson of the first Dr. David King, of that city, who was the first physician to introduce vaccination in this State. He was also a descendant of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch governor of New York.

His early life was spent in Newport, and at the age of thirteen he became a pupil of Dr. Coit's, at St. Paul's School. He entered Columbia College in 1873, graduating four years later, and in 1879 he was admitted to the bar. In 1881 he married Ethel, third daughter of Frederic W. Rhineland, of New York,—since which time, with the exception of occasional visits to Europe, he resided in Newport.

Brought up in the Episcopal Church, he was a devoted and loyal member, ever using his position and time for the glory and strength of the Church, and for the welfare of his fellow-men. For many years he was a vestryman, and for the past five years senior warden, of Trinity Church. He was often a delegate from that parish to the Diocesan Convention, and for three times represented this diocese as a delegate to the Triennial Convention of the Church.

He was always deeply interested in the local societies in Newport, and was president of the Redwood Library for nine years. He was also a trustee of St. Paul's School, Concord, N. H.

One who knew him well has said: "His life is the record of a simple and earnest devotion to duty, controlled by strong religious principle. In Newport, in the midst of the gayety of one of the most fashionable and attractive of American watering-places, he led a quiet, unostentatious, and useful life. He was, in the truest sense, a high-toned, Christian gentleman, keenly appreciative of everything noble and pure. His ideas and his manners were marked by gentle and considerate courtesy. The world is better for the life and example of Le Roy King. It is well for us to reflect upon that example. It will teach us that wealth and position need be no hindrance to an earnest Christian life, but that one who was endowed abundantly with what are esteemed earthly advantages, could use his opportunities for the good of others, and 'could keep himself unspotted from the world.'"

INSTITUTIONS, CORPORATIONS, AND COPARTNERSHIPS FROM WHICH GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

- American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.
 American Catholic Historical Society, Philadelphia.
 American Congregational Association, Boston.
 American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
 Boston Associated Charities, Boston.
 Boston Public Library, Boston.
 Boston Record Commissioners, Boston.
 Brooklyn Library, Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Brown University, Providence.
 Buffalo Historical Society, Buffalo, N. Y.
 Cayuga County Historical Society, Auburn, N. Y.
 Columbia College, New York.
 Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Conn.
 Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.
 Coombs, H. M. & Co., Providence.
 Dedham Historical Society, Dedham, Mass.
 Essex County Historical and Genealogical Register, Ipswich, Mass.
 Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.
 Fairfield County Historical Society, Bridgeport, Conn.
 Halifax Historical Society, Halifax, N. S.
 Hartford Theological Seminary, Hartford, Conn.
 Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
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 Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans, La.
 Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Ill.
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 International News Company.
 Iowa Geological Survey, Des Moines, Iowa.
 Iowa Historical Department, Des Moines, Iowa.
 Iowa State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa.
 Irrepressible Society, Providence.
 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
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 Lenox Library, New York.
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 Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles, Cal.
 Louisiana Historical Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.
 Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me.
 Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Md.
 Massachusetts Board of Railroad Commissioners, Boston.
 Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, Boston.
 Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.
 Massachusetts Teachers' Association, Boston.
 McMillan & Co., New York.
 Michigan State Library, Lansing, Mich.
 Michigan University, Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Minnesota Academy of Natural Sciences, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Mo.
 Nebraska Historical Society, Lincoln, Neb.
 Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.
 New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.
 New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N. H.
 New Hampshire State Library, Concord, N. H.
 New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, N. J.
 New London County Historical Society, New London, Conn.
 New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York.
 New York Historical Society, New York.
 New York Mercantile Library Association, New York.
 New York Meteorological Observatory, New York.
 New York Society of Colonial Wars.
 New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.
 New York State University, Albany, N. Y.
 New York World, New York.
 Nova Scotia Historical Society, Halifax, N. S.
 Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, Columbus, Ohio.

- Ohio Historical and Philosophical Society,
Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton,
Mass.
- Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago,
Ill.
- Pawcatuck Valley Historical Society, West-
erly, R. I.
- Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadel-
phia.
- Philadelphia Library Company, Philadel-
phia.
- Philadelphia Peace Society, Philadelphia.
- Portland Library Association, Portland, Ore-
gon.
- Providence Children's Friend Society, Provi-
dence.
- Providence City Government, Providence.
- Providence Home for Aged Men, Providence.
- Providence Journal Company, Providence.
- Providence Public Library, Providence.
- Providence Record Commissioners, Provi-
dence.
- Providence Soldiers and Sailors Historical
Society, Providence.
- Providence Young Men's Christian Associa-
tion, Providence.
- Rhode Island College of Agriculture and
Mechanic Arts, Kingston, R. I.
- Rhode Island Hospital, Providence.
- Rhode Island Medical Society, Providence.
- Rhode Island Peace Society, Providence.
- Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Children, Providence.
- Rhode Island State Department, Providence.
- Royal Academy of Belles-Lettres and His-
tory, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Royal Historical Society, London, Hanover
Square, W.
- Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Co-
penhagen, Denmark.
- St. Paul's Church, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Salem Public Library, Salem, Mass.
- Sampson, Murdock & Co., Providence.
- Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.
- Society of the Cincinnati, New York.
- Society of Colonial Wars, New York.
- Society of Colonial Wars, Illinois.
- Society of the Sons of the Revolution, Massa-
chusetts.
- Society for the Relief of the Destitute Blind.
Standard Printing Company, Providence.
- Tennessee State Board of Health, Nashville,
Tenn.
- Tufts College, College Hill, Mass.
- Union Congregational Church, Providence.
- United States Board of Geographic Names,
Washington.
- United States Bureau of Education, Wash-
ington.
- United States Civil Service Commission,
Washington.
- United States Department of Agriculture,
Washington.
- United States Department of the Interior,
Washington.
- United States Department of Labor, Wash-
ington.
- United States Department of State, Wash-
ington.
- United States War Department, Washington.
- United States Treasury Department, Wash-
ington.
- Wadlin, Horace G., Chief of Labor Bureau.
- West Virginia Historical Society.
- Western Reserve Historical Society.
- William and Mary College, Williamsburg,
Va.
- Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madi-
son, Wis.
- Worcester Society of Antiquity, Worcester,
Mass.
- Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.
- Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
- Yonkers Historical and Library Association.
Yonkers, N. Y.

PERSONS FROM WHOM GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Aldrich, Nelson W., Providence.
 Angell, James B., Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Appleton, William S., Boston.
 Arnold, Fred Augustus, Providence.
 Arnold, H. T., Woodstock, Conn.
 Arnold, Stephen H., Providence.
 Austin, John O., Providence.
 Balch, Edwin Swift, Philadelphia.
 Ball, Nicholas, Block Island.
 Barrows, George B., Providence.
 Barrows, Miss Hepsa Blake, Providence.
 Bennett, Charles P., Providence.
 Billings, Mrs. Anna, Providence.
 Billings, Mrs. Samuel, Jersey City, N. J.
 Bowen, Holder Borden, Providence.
 Bradlee, Rev. Caleb D., Boston.
 Brinton, Daniel G., M. D., Philadelphia.
 Brown, John Nicholas, Providence.
 Bucklin, Miss L. B., Providence.
 Burke, Benjamin F., Providence.
 Burrage, Rev. Henry S., Portland, Me.
 Carpenter, Rev. C. C., Andover, Mass.
 Carpenter, Charles E., Providence.
 Carpenter, George M., Providence.
 Chadsey, J., M. D., Newark, N. J.
 Chapin, Wm. W., Providence.
 Chase, George W., Providence.
 Clark, Henry C., Providence.
 Clark, Rt. Rev. Thomas M., Providence
 Coe, Henry F., Boston.
 Coggeshall, Mrs. James H., Providence.
 Cranston, Henry C., Providence.
 Danforth, Charles, Providence.
 Daniels, H., Providence.
 Davis, Charles E., Boston.
 Davis, Mrs. Sarah A., Providence.
 DeMenil, Alexander N., St. Louis, Mo.
 Denison, Frederic, Providence.
 Dodge, James H., Boston.
 Dorrance, James R., Providence.
 Drowne, Henry T., New York.
 Drowne, Thomas S., Flatbush, N. Y.
 Dyer, Elisha, Providence.
 Eaton, Amasa M., Providence.
 Ely, William D., Providence.
 Everett, Richmond P., Providence.
 Feacing, A. C., Jr., Boston.</p> | <p>Field, Edward, Providence.
 Fisher, David, Kalamazoo, Mich.
 Flagg, Charles O., Kingston, R. I.
 Folsom, Albert A., Brookline, Mass.
 Freeman, Edward L., Providence.
 Fretwell, John, Providence.
 Frost, Walter B., Providence.
 Gamwell, Edward F., Providence.
 Green, Samuel A., Boston.
 Greene, Rev. Albert, East Providence.
 Greene, S. C., Cleveland, Ohio.
 Griffin, Stephen W., Washington, D. C.
 Gurley, Charles L., Washington, D. C.
 Harris, Willam T., Washington, D. C.
 Hassam, John T., Boston.
 Hazard, Rowland, Peace Dale, R. I.
 Hearn, George A., New York.
 Henry, E. L., New York.
 Hoadley, Samuel P., Lowell, Mass.
 Holbrook, Albert, Providence.
 Hopkins, C. W., Providence.
 Hoppin, William Warner, New York.
 Howland, Richard S., Providence.
 Hoyt, David W., Providence.
 Hoyt, Harold W., Providence.
 Huling, Ray Greene, Cambridge, Mass.
 Hunter, George F., East Providence.
 Jencks, Albert V., Providence.
 Jenks, Elisha T., Middleborough, Mass.
 Kelton, Dwight H., Montpelier, Vt.
 King, Henry M., Providence.
 Knight, Jabez C., Providence.
 Knowles, Edward Randall, Worcester, Mass.
 Knowles, Edwin A., Point Judith, R. I.
 Knowles, John P., St. Paul, Minnesota.
 Lapham, Oscar, Providence.
 Leupp, Francis E., St. Louis, Mo.
 Libbie, Charles F., New York.
 Lincoln, Frederick W., Boston.
 Martin, Frank B., Washington, D. C.
 Mead, William B., Providence.
 Meader, Lewis H., Providence.
 Mitchell, Thomas S., Providence.
 Morse, John G., Boston.
 Moseley, William H. T., Providence.
 Murray, William, Lowell, Mass.
 Nicholson, Samuel M., Providence.</p> |
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Nightingale, Charles E., Providence.
 Noyes, Charles P., St. Paul, Minn.
 Noyes, Isaac P., Washington, D. C.
 Olney, Frank F., Providence.
 Olney, George W., New York.
 Parsons, Mrs. Ellen R., Providence.
 Pearce, Edward D., Providence.
 Peckham, Stephen F., Ann Arbor, Mich.
 Peckham, Thomas C., Providence.
 Peet, Stephen D., Ill.
 Peirce, Edward L., Dorchester, Mass.
 Pell, Howland, New York.
 Perry, Amos, Providence.
 Perry, John G., South Kingstown, R. I.
 Perry, Rt. Rev. William S., Davenport, Ia.
 Powell, J. W., Washington, D. C.
 Putnam, Eben, Salem, Mass.
 Rhodes, Edward L., Providence.
 Rider, Sidney S., Providence.
 Robinson, J. A., Providence.
 Rodman, Robert, North Kingstown, R. I.
 Rogers, Horatio, Providence.
 Sabin, Charles, Providence.
 Savage, John, Lowell, Mass.

Sheldon, Mrs. Israel R., Pawtucket.
 Spencer, Gideon, East Greenwich.
 Steere, Charles L., Burrillville, Mass.
 Stetson, George R., Washington, D. C.
 Stevens, Benjamin F., Boston.
 Stone, Frederick D., Philadelphia.
 Storer, Horatio R., Providence.
 Swan, Robert T., Boston.
 Swarts, Gardner T., M. D., Providence.
 Tooker, William Wallace, Sag Harbor, Long Island, N. Y.
 Updike, Daniel, Berkeley, Boston.
 Walker, Henry, Boston.
 Webb, William Seward, New York.
 Weeden, William B., Providence.
 Wickes, W. B., Sharon, Mass.
 Wilbour, Mrs. Belinda W., Bristol, R. I.
 Wilson, George G., Providence.
 Wood, William H., Providence.
 Wood, Mark H., Barrington, R. I.
 Woodbury, Rev. Augustus, Providence.
 Worch, Mrs. W. F., Providence.
 Wright, Carroll D., Washington.

ACTIVE MEMBERS—JANUARY, 1896.

ELECTED.

1895. Adams, John F.
 1874. Aldrich, Nelson Wilmarth
 1890. Allen, Candace
 1890. Allen, Edward S.
 1885. Andrews, Elisha Benjamin
 1876. Angell, Edwin G.
 1893. Angell, Walter F.
 1880. Anthony, John B.
 1891. Armstrong, Henry C.
 1894. Arnold, Fred Augustus
 1889. Arnold, Fred. W.
 1889. Arnold, Newton Darling
 1874. Arnold, Olney
 1877. Arnold, Stephen Harris
 1890. Atwood, Charles H.
 1893. Backus, Thomas
 1881. Bailey, Richard Arnold
 1853. Bailey, William Mason
 1881. Baker, David Sherman
 1891. Ball, Nicholas

ELECTED.

1895. Ballou, Hosea Starr
 1890. Ballou, William Herbert
 1884. Ballou, Latimer Whipple
 1891. Barker, Frederick Augustus
 1890. Barker, Henry R.
 1872. Barrows, Edwin
 1886. Barstow, Amos C.
 1890. Barstow, George E.
 1888. Bartlett, John Russell
 1879. Barton, William T.
 1893. Bass, Bertha
 1883. Bates, Isaac Comstock
 1894. Bates, William L.
 1894. Bicknell, Thomas Williams
 1858. Binney, William
 1892. Blake, Elizabeth Vernon
 1890. Blodgett, John T.
 1878. Bogman, Edward Young
 1894. Bourn, Augustus Osborne
 1891. Bourn, George W. B.

ELECTED.

- 1881. Bradley, Charles
- 1893. Briggs, Benjamin F.
- 1894. Brown, Albert Waterman
- 1883. Brown, D. Russell
- 1883. Brown, H. Martin
- 1893. Brown, Pardon Fenner
- 1876. Bugbee, James H.
- 1884. Bullock, Jonathan Russell
- 1884. Burdick, James
- 1891. Burgess, Edwin A.
- 1891. Calder, Albert L.
- 1859. Calder, George Beckford
- 1876. Campbell, Horatio Nelson
- 1894. Campbell, John P.
- 1873. Carpenter, Charles Earl
- 1874. Carpenter, Francis Wood
- 1886. Carpenter, George Moulton
- 1889. Catlin, Charles Albert
- 1894. Chace, Henry Richmond
- 1888. Chace, James H.
- 1880. Chace, Jonathan
- 1880. Chace, Julian A.
- 1879. Chace, Lewis Jenkins
- 1892. Chace, Mrs. Lucretia G.
- 1868. Chace, Thomas Wilson
- 1857. Chambers, Robert B.
- 1884. Chapin, Charles Value
- 1892. Chapin, William W.
- 1883. Child, Charles H.
- 1887. Clafin, Arthur W.
- 1895. Clark, Harry Clinton
- 1878. Clark, Thomas March
- 1880. Coats, James
- 1877. Codman, Arthur Amory
- 1885. Collins, George Lewis
- 1892. Colwell, Francis
- 1890. Comstock, Louis H.
- 1886. Comstock, Richard W.
- 1891. Conant, Samuel Morse
- 1872. Congdon, Johns Hopkins
- 1892. Cooke, Henry W.
- 1877. Cranston, George K.
- 1874. Cranston, Henry Clay
- 1881. Cranston, James E.
- 1894. Cressy, Oliver S.

ELECTED.

- 1891. Crins, William H.
- 1876. Cushman, Henry I.
- 1890. Danforth, Charles
- 1886. Dart, Edward Merrill
- 1891. Davis, Henry R.
- 1894. Davis, John W.
- 1887. Day, Albert C.
- 1881. Day, Daniel
- 1894. Day, Frank L.
- 1894. Day, Henry G.
- 1886. Dews, Joseph
- 1895. Dexter, Elizabeth Bridgham
- 1893. Diman, John B.
- 1881. Dixon, Nathan Fellows
- 1877. Doringh, Charles H. R.
- 1877. Dorrance, Sam'l Richmond
- 1888. Douglas, Samuel Tobey
- 1882. Douglas, Wm. Wilberforce
- 1875. Dunnell, William Wanton
- 1877. Durfee, Charles S.
- 1849. Durfee, Thomas
- 1890. Dyer, Elisha
- 1894. Dyer, Oliver
- 1873. Eames, Benjamin Tucker
- 1886. Earle, Charles R.
- 1856. Ely, James W. C.
- 1891. Ely, Joseph Cady
- 1862. Ely, William Davis
- 1892. Farnsworth, John P.
- 1891. Field, Edward
- 1891. Fifield, Henry Allen
- 1890. Fiske, George McClellan
- 1885. Fitzgerald, O. Edward
- 1893. Flint, Susan A.
- 1891. Foster, John
- 1888. Foster, Samuel
- 1881. Foster, William E.
- 1892. Fredericks, William H.
- 1855. Gammell, Asa Messer
- 1875. Gammell, Robert Ives
- 1884. Gammell, William
- 1891. Gardner, Clarence T.
- 1889. Gardner, Henry Brayton
- 1889. Gardner, Rathbone
- 1885. George, Charles H.

ELECTED.

1891. Gifford, Robert P.
 1894. Goddard, Elizabeth C.
 1881. Goddard, Moses Brown Ives
 1880. Goddard, Robert H. Ives
 1850. Goddard, William
 1895. Goff, Isaac L.
 1883. Goodwin, Daniel
 1891. Granger, Daniel L. D.
 1893. Granger, William S.
 1875. Grant, Henry Townsend
 1891. Grant, Henry T., Jr.
 1893. Greene, Charles William
 1893. Greene, Edward A.
 1876. Greene, Henry L.
 1893. Greene, Henry Whitman
 1887. Greene, Thomas C.
 1877. Greene, W. Maxwell
 1895. Greene, William R.
 1892. Gross, J. Mason
 1872. Grosvenor, William
 1887. Guild, Reuben Aldridge
 1894. Hale Wendell Phillips
 1890. Hall, Emily A.
 1882. Hall, Jenison C.
 1878. Hall, Robert
 1878. Harkness, Albert
 1874. Harrington, Henry Augustus
 1895. Harrison, Joseph Le Roy
 1883. Harson, M. Joseph
 1889. Hart, George Thomas
 1892. Hayes, Henry W.
 1890. Hazard, George J.
 1888. Hazard, Rowland Gibson
 1881. Hersey, George D.
 1873. Hidden, Henry Atkins
 1874. Holbrook, Albert
 1892. Hopkins, Charles W.
 1874. Hopkins, William H.
 1887. Hopkins, William H., 2d
 1871. Hoppin, Frederick Street
 1890. Howard, Hiram
 1891. Howe, Marc Antony DeWolf
 1885. Howland, Richard Smith
 1882. Hoyt, David Webster
 1889. Hudson, James Smith
 1882. Jackson, William F. B.

ELECTED.

1896. Jacob, Henry
 1888. Jameson, John Franklin
 1867. Jencks, Albert Varnum
 1890. Jepherson, George A.
 1880. Jones, Augustine
 1889. Kelly, John B.
 1883. Kendall, Hiram
 1880. Kenyon, James S.
 1892. Kimball, Horace A.
 1876. Kimball, James M.
 1892. King, Henry M.
 1884. King, William Dehon
 1879. Knight, Edward B.
 1894. Koopman, Harry Lyman
 1883. Ladd, Herbert W.
 1895. Lapham, George Boardman
 1890. Leete, George F.
 1895. Lillibridge, Byron J.
 1892. Lincoln, Ferdinand A.
 1894. Lingane, David F.
 1878. Lippitt, Charles Warren
 1880. Lippitt, Christopher
 1891. Lord, Augustus M.
 1892. Luther, George Edmund
 1894. Macdougall, Hamilton C.
 1891. Manly, John M.
 1892. Mason, A. Livingston
 1877. Mason, Earl Philip
 1892. Mason, Edith B. H.
 1877. Mason, Eugene W.
 1877. Mason, John H.
 1894. Mathewson, Frank M.
 1891. Matteson, Charles
 1889. Matteson, George Washing-
 ton Richmond
 1895. McCabe, Anthony
 1891. McGuinness, Edwin D.
 1891. Mead, William B.
 1883. Meader, Lewis H.
 1890. Metcalf, Alfred
 1876. Metcalf, Henry B.
 1875. Miller, Augustus Samuel
 1881. Miner, Francis Wayland
 1892. Mitchell, Thomas Spencer
 1892. Mott, Herbert
 1891. Moulton, David C.

ELECTED.

1890. Moulton, Edmund T.
 1880. Munro, Wilfred H.
 1895. Newell, Timothy
 1880. Nichols, Amos G.
 1894. Nicholson, Samuel M.
 1894. Nicholson, Stephen
 1876. Nickerson, Edward I.
 1874. Nightingale, George Corlis
 1894. Nightingale, Samuel Arnold
 1896. Noyes, James Fanning
 1890. Olney, Frank F.
 1879. Olney, George Henry
 1888. Packard, Alpheus S.
 1885. Page, Charles H.
 1889. Paine, Charles E. (C. E.)
 1894. Palmer, John S.
 1890. Parker, Edward D. L.
 1887. Peck, Walter A.
 1875. Pegram, John C.
 1896. Pendleton, Charles Leonard
 1880. Perry, Marsden J.
 1874. Persons, Benjamin Williams
 1894. Pettis, George H.
 1891. Phillips, Gilbert A.
 1873. Phillips, Theodore Winthrop
 1878. Porter, Emory Huntington
 1895. Potter, Albert
 1891. Potter, Asa K.
 1887. Preston, Howard Willis
 1894. Remick, Augustus
 1896. Rhodes, Elisha Hunt
 1891. Richards, Henry F.
 1891. Richmond, Caroline
 1877. Richmond, Walter
 1891. Ripley, James M.
 1881. Roelker, William G.
 1888. Rogers, Arthur
 1890. Rugg, Henry W.
 1877. Seagrave, Caleb
 1874. Shedd, J. Herbert
 1881. Sheffield, William Paine, Jr.
 1889. Sheldon, Charles Henry, Jr.
 1885. Sheldon, Nicholas
 1879. Shepley, George L.
 1894. Sisson, Henry Tillinghast
 1877. Slater, Horatio Nelson
 1875. Smith, Edwin Augustus

ELECTED.

1869. Southwick, Isaac H.
 1885. Southwick, Isaac H., Jr.
 1880. Spicer, William A.
 1890. Spink, Joseph Edwin
 1881. Spooner, Henry Joshua
 1888. Stark, Charles Rathbone
 1879. Stiness, John Henry
 1881. Stone, Alfred
 1886. Sturges, Howard O.
 1894. Swarts, Gardner T.
 1896. Taft, Edward Padelford
 1896. Taft, Orray
 1856. Taft, Royal Chapin
 1883. Talbot, Frederick
 1874. Taylor, Charles Frederick
 1881. Thomas, Charles Lloyd
 1890. Thornton, George M.
 1891. Thurston, Benjamin F.
 1889. Tillinghast, James
 1891. Tourtellot, Amasa C.
 1890. Tower, James H.
 1891. Traver, Adelia E. A.
 1895. Tucker, William Packard
 1874. Turner, Henry Edward
 1885. Updike, Daniel Berkeley
 1895. Vinton, Frederick Arnold
 1894. Von Gottschalck, Mary H.B.
 1881. Vose, James Gardner
 1861. Waterman, Rufus
 1890. Webb, Samuel H.
 1868. Weeden, William Babcock
 1887. Welling, Rich. Ward Greene
 1891. West, George J.
 1894. Weston, George Franklin
 1890. Whitaker, Nelson Bowen
 1884. White, Stillman
 1896. White, Willis H.
 1874. Whitford, Geo. Washington
 1884. Wilbour, Joshua
 1891. Wilbur, George A.
 1896. Williams, Alonzo
 1881. Williams, Zephaniah
 1895. Winship, George Barker
 1891. Willson, Edmund R.
 1888. Wilson, George Grafton
 1887. Wood, William H.
 1876. Woods, Marshall

LIFE MEMBERS—JANUARY, 1896.

ACTIVE.	LIFE.		DIED.
1867.	1872.	George T. Paine,	Providence.
1849.	1872.	Henry T. Beckwith,	Providence. 1893.
1866.	1872.	William Greene,	Warwick. 1883.
1836.	1872.	Rowland G. Hazard,	S. Kingstown. 1888.
	1872.	Holder Borden Bowen,	Providence.
	1872.	Amasa Mason Eaton,	N. Providence.
1857.	1873.	James Y. Smith,	Providence. 1876.
	1873.	Jarvis B. Swan,	Providence.
1870.	1873.	Benjamin G. Pabodie,	Providence. 1880.
	1875.	Albert G. Angell,	Providence. 1884.
	1876.	William Ely,	Providence.
	1877.	Hezekiah Conant,	Pawtucket,
1844.	1879.	Samuel G. Arnold,	Portsmouth. 1880.
	1879.	Amos D. Lockwood,	Providence. 1884.
	1879.	Royal Woodward,	Albany, N. Y. 1882.
1878.	1880.	Charles Gorton,	Providence.
1874.	1880.	John Pitman Walker,	Providence. 1887.
1841.	1880.	Alexander Duncan,	Scotland. 1889.
1877.	1883.	John T. Mumford,	Providence. 1891.
	1883.	Thomas Poynton Ives Goddard,	Providence. 1893.
1873.	1884.	Henry G. Russell,	Providence.
	1885.	William G. Weld,	Newport. 1891.
	1885.	John Nicholas Brown,	Newport.
	1885.	George Peabody Wetmore,	Newport.
	1885.	Harold Brown,	Newport.
	1886.	John W. Danielson,	Providence.
	1888.	Le Roy King,	Newport. 1895.
	1889.	Charles Fletcher,	Providence.
	1890.	Julia Bullock,	Providence. 1894.
	1890.	Joseph Davol,	Providence.
	1890.	Mary H. Knowles,	Providence.
	1890.	Joseph Banigan,	Providence.
	1890.	Walter Callender,	Providence.
	1890.	Arnold Green,	Providence.
	1890.	Lucian Sharpe,	Providence.
	1890.	John L. Troup,	Providence. 1896.
1881.	1892.	John Osborne Austin,	Providence.
1858.	1892.	Richmond P. Everett,	Providence.
1885.	1892.	George Gordon King,	Newport.
	1892.	Belinda Olney Wilbour,	Bristol.
	1894.	William Butler Duncan,	New York.
1882.	1894.	Charles H. Smith,	Providence.

ACTIVE.	LIFE.		DIED.
1871.	1894.	Rowland Hazard,	Peace Dale.
1866.	1894.	Horatio Rogers,	Providence.
1874.	1894.	Thomas Jefferson Hill,	Providence. 1894.
1891.	1894.	Elizabeth C. Hill,	Providence.
	1894.	Caroline Hazard,	Peace Dale.
	1895.	James Tillinghast,	Buffalo.
	1895.	Hattie Budlong Chaffee,	Providence.
	1895.	Esek A. Jillson,	Providence.
	1895.	Robert Rodman,	N. Kingstown.
	1896.	Charles Phelps Noyes,	St. Paul, Minn.
1875.	1896.	William Ames.	Providence.
1889.	1896.	Hunter Carson White,	Providence.
1873.	1896.	Charles Hart,	Providence.
1858.	1896.	Amos Perry,	Providence.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

ELECTED.		
1888.	James Burrill Angell, LL.D.,	Ann Arbor, Mich.
1895.	Charles Francis Adams,	Boston, Mass.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

ELECTED.		DIED.
1888.	James Tillinghast,	Buffalo, N. Y.
1888.	William Frederick Poole. LL.D.,	Chicago, Ill. 1894.
1888.	Samuel Smith Purple, M. D.,	New York.
1888.	Edward Amasa Park, D. D.,	Andover, Mass.
1888.	Abby Isabel (Brown) Bulkley,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
1889.	William Henry Watson, M. D.,	Utica, N. Y.
1890.	Rev. William R. Bagnall,	Middletown, Ct. 1892.
1890.	Franklin Pierce Rice,	Worcester, Mass.
1890.	William Harden,	Savannah, Ga.
1891.	Henry Fitz Gilbert Waters,	Salem, Mass.
1891.	William Warner Hoppin,	New York.
1891.	Isaac Pitman Noyes,	Washington, D. C.
1892.	Henry Herbert Edes,	Charlestown, Mass.
1893.	Clarence Winthrop Bowen,	New York.
1893.	Alfred Manchester,	Salem, Mass.
1894.	Laura G. Sanford,	Erie, Pa.
1894.	Charles Phelps Noyes,	St. Paul, Minn.
1895.	Oscar S. Straus,	New York.
1895.	Stanislaus Murray Hamilton,	Brookland, D. C.
1895.	David Fisher,	Kalamazoo, Mich.

For list of Honorary and Corresponding Members elected at previous dates, see Proceedings, 1887-88.

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JAMES BROWN MASON.
Born 1775, Jan. 28. Died 1819, Aug. 31.
Providence, R. I.

Stephen Dexter ³ (John ² , Gregory ¹). B 1689, April 15. M D 1758, Dec. 27. Providence, R. I.		Susannah Whipple ³ (Joseph ² , John ¹). B 1693, April 14. D 1776, Dec. 15.		Ebenezer Carpenter ⁶ (William ⁴ , William ³ , William ² , William ¹). B 1694, June 5. M D 1737. Attleboro, Mass.		Mehitable. B B D		Ichabod Comstock ⁴ (Samuel ³ , Samuel ² , William ¹). B 1696, June 9. M 1722, Sept. 13. D 1775, Jan. 26. Smithfield, R. I.		Zebiah Wilkinson ⁴ (Samuel ³ , Samuel ² , Lawrence ¹). B 1702, Oct. 2. D		John Jenckes ⁴ (William ³ , Joseph ² , Joseph ¹). B 1710. M D 1776, May. Smithfield, R. I.		Rachel Lawrence. B D 1776 ⁺	
Christopher Dexter. B 1728. M 1749, Sept. 28. D 1797, June 11. N. Providence, R. I.				Priscilla Carpenter. B 1728. D 1800, May 26.				Ichabod Comstock. B 1728, March 17. M 1760, April 11. D Smithfield, R. I.				Sarah Jenckes. B D			
Lewis Dexter. B 1763. M 1793, Jan. 31. D 1824, Mar. 17. Smithfield, R. I.								Lydia Comstock. B 1766. D							

LEWIS DEXTER.

Born 1794. Died 1867, July 22.

WILSON, HOOKER, RAWSON, ARTHUR AND BURRILL ALLIED
FAMILIES.

Rev. John Wilson, Jr., son of Rev. John Wilson of the First Church at Boston, married soon after the death of Rev. Thomas Hooker, 1647, Sarah Hooker, youngest daughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Hartford, Conn. The Wilsons were settled at Dorchester.

Susannah Wilson, youngest child of Rev. John and Sarah (Hooker) Wilson, born, 1664 ; married, 1683, Rev. Grindall Rawson, son of Colonial Secretary Edmund Rawson, whose wife, Rachel Perne, was in some way related to Rev. Thomas Hooker.

Wilson Rawson, son of Rev. Grindall and Susannah (Wilson) Rawson (1692-1726), married, 1712, Margaret Arthur, of Nantucket (-1757).

Stephen Rawson, son of Wilson and Margaret (Arthur) Rawson (1722-1773), married,—? Elizabeth —?

Elizabeth Rawson, daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth () Rawson, married, 1768, James Burrill, of Providence, R. I.

This Elizabeth Rawson was a Gr.-Gr.-Gr.-Granddaughter of Rev. Thomas Hooker, and was Grandmother of Hon. James Burrill, U. S. Senate, who was therefore a Gr.-Gr.-Gr.-Gr.-Gr.-Grandson of Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Hartford, Conn.

Sarah Hooker married Rev. John Wilson, Jr., Dorchester, Mass.

Susannah Wilson married Rev. Grindall Rawson, Mendon, Mass.

Wilson Rawson, Mendon, married Margaret Arthur, Nantucket.

Stephen Rawson married Elizabeth —?

Elizabeth Rawson married James Burrill, Providence, R. I.

EDW. HOOKER,
289 Gates Avenue,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Providence, Feb. 5, 1896.

MY DEAR MR. PERRY: In the last number of the Publications of the Society there was printed a genealogical chart of Senator James Burrill and his wife Sally Arnold. As they were my great-grandparents, I happen to be able to send you the following additional data.

James Burrill, Senior, was born 1744 and died December 15, 1825. He lived in Lynn and Providence.

Ebenezer Burrill ⁴ was born February 6, 1702. He married Mary Mansfield, daughter of Geo. (or Gen.) Mansfield.

Elizabeth Rawson was born January 7, 174⁷₈, and died March 1 (not 11), 1811.

Stephen Rawson married Elizabeth Elliott.

Sarah Arnold was born November 22, 1777 (not 1778).

Jonathan Arnold was married to Molly Burr, January 19 (not June 19), 1763. He died February 1, 1793.

Molly Burr was born November 23, 1743 (not 1745).

David Burr lived in Hingham and Rehoboth. His father's name was Simon² (not Samuel²).

I limit the additional data to the three generations given in the chart, but could give more if desired. Members of the family own portraits of James Burrill, Senior, his wife Elizabeth, James Burrill, Junior, and his wife Sally.

THEODORE FRANCIS GREEN.

P. S. Dr. Jonathan Arnold was born December 13, 1741, O. S.

What Tillinghast was the father of Sarah Tillingast, who was born on the 26th day of February, 1728; was married to Lemuel Wyatt of Newport, R. I., on the 2d day of October, 1747, and died at Rehoboth, Mass., now East Providence, on the 22d day of October, 1804?

T. F. SPANGLER,
Zanesville, Ohio.

Ezra Ormsbee, born 1686, Aug. 15, son of Thomas Ormsbee, of Rehoboth, died 1763, at Warren, R. I.

What was his mother's name in full?

Had he a daughter Zerviah, who married Rev. John Mason?

Stephen Whipple, of Smithfield, R. I., married (for his second wife), about 1757, Anna Arnold. Who were her parents?

THE KINGSTON REDS.

The volume of Military Returns for 1777-1782, preserved at the State House, contains a report of the election of officers of "the independent company of King's County by the name of the Kingston Reds," which met at the Court House on "Little Rest Hill," the 21st day of April, 1778. The officers chosen were :—

Captain, John Waite.

First Lieut., Nathan Taylor.

Second Lieut., Samuel Eldredge.

Ensign, Gardner Tefft.

A similar return appears in 1779, 1780, and 1781.

I should be glad to know what service this organization rendered in the Revolution, and also whether it had an earlier origin than is indicated above.

RAY GREENE HULING,

Cambridge, Mass.

QUERY. What was the maiden surname of Esther . . . , born August 18, 1687 ; died July 26, 1744 ; who married (in Bristol, R.I.), November 8, 1705, Solomon Drowne (the eldest son of Leonard Drowne), born January 23, 1681 ; died October 9, 1730. Mr. Drowne's record states the marriage was in New Bristol at the house of Mr. Benjamin Jones, by Mr. John Sparough.

HENRY T. DROWNE,

35 Pine Street, New York.

ON OFFICE-SEEKING IN WASHINGTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

A considerable portion of an article on Office-Seeking in Washington's administration, by Gaillard Hunt, in the January issue of *The American Historical Review*, is devoted to Rhode Island appointments. Mr. Hunt prints letters from Governor John Collins, dated, Newport, May 24, 1790 ; from John Brown and John Francis, Providence, June 11, 1790 ; and from Henry Marchant, Newport, December 9, 1793, which support his opinion that in Rhode Island more than in

any of the other States, political or partizan influences were considered by President Washington in making the appointments. Mr. Hunt says: "For Rhode Island it would have been suicidal if the enemies of the federal government had received recognition. The State had given its adhesion to the Union at a late date and by a slender majority, and the 'antis' could not safely be given any opportunity of undoing the work which the Federalists had accomplished with so much difficulty."

The truth of this is admirably shown by the letter of Brown and Francis to the President: "Grait Exertions have been made and Very Large Sacrifises of Property by the Federals of this Place to change the Policy of this Government which for this Four Years Last past have been constantly opposing the adoption of the new constitution. . . . We sincearly Hope that none of those carrectors may be promoted to Aney office by Congress, Maney things we Doubt not have beene and will be said by Letter or otherwise frome the Principle carrectors among the Anties, thereby if Possable to Induce a beleave in the President that some of their Friends are Intitied to Promotion, but we Hope such Deception will not have its Desired Influence, . . . We now having so brite a Prospect before us, of Justice and Equity being Substituted by, in Lue of Fraud and Injustice being promoted Under the culler of Law, we Begg leave to take the Liberty of Recommending a core of Honest Faithfull and Vigilant Custom House officers for this Department Such as will cause Every Copper of the Renew that shall become due by the Laws of Congress to be punctually paid to the Treasury of the United States."

The other letters are equally interesting contributions to the history of the State during this period.

The New York *Nation* announces that the next volume of the *Calendar of Papers* in the English Public Record office, Colonial Series, will contain an abstract of the statement which Roger Williams wrote when an old man, in regard to the early history of the Providence Plantation.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

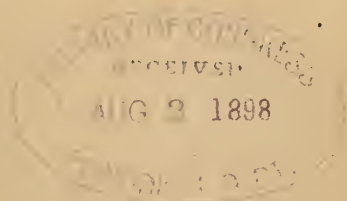
NEW SERIES

VOL. IV

JULY, 1896

NO. 2

WHOLE NUMBER, 14



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Life members and such active members as have paid their tax for the year 1896 are entitled to the publications of the Society.

[CONTINUED FROM VOL. III., NO. 4, P. 230.]

Same day, William Burrough acknowledges to have sold unto Arthur ffenner and to Henry Brown, "one share of meadow lying at Neuticonkonet, adjoining unto Pachaset River, with five & twenty acres of upland lying on the east & on the west side of the meadow." . . . "27th January, 1648. Thomas Angell of Providence, sold unto James Matteson, a five-acre lot lying on the east side of the land which Thomas Clement liveth upon, bounded on the east with the land of Benedict Arnold, on the north with the sea, as is manifested by a deed under his hand." . . . This was rare and exceptional. The primitive practice was now changing, as appears by the mention of a deed. These were private transfers. The Proprietor's method was not much more precise. . . . On the same day, . . . "Thomas Harris in the face of the court acknowledgeth that he hath sold unto Thomas Clement that land which the said Thomas Clement now dwelleth upon." No boundaries are given. These open and public transfers doubtless served in early times as a security against fraud and as a preventive of litigation. They also effectually prevented any sales to strangers. "July 24th, 1658, . . . Richard Pray hath taken up the sharpe piece of land lying near the place where Richard Waterman's great canoe was made, for a share of meadow, it being laid out by the Town Deputy, it being bounded on the south with a white oak at each corner, also on the north with a white oak at each corner, on the west with a black oak tree." [This was in the neighborhood of the present Steeple Street.] These primitive land owners felt greater confidence in the perpetuity of neighborhoods and homesteads and in the clearness of their own recollections than is common among their descendants in these latter days. After nearly a quarter of a century of experience, they had become aware of the importance of form and accuracy, and the transfers are better specimens of the draughtsman's skill. Whatever was faulty in the work of the conveyancer, was but little aided by that of the "Proprietors' Surveyors." The rude instruments of those days produced boundaries which later generations often found it difficult to identify as those described in their ancestors' deeds. Gen-

erations passed away before these irritating controversies were laid to rest. To avoid dissensions the Proprietors were liberal in their allotments to themselves and to their grantees. By an order of the Town Meeting, then wholly controlled by the first purchasers,* and which order continued in force during many years, the rod was to be measured by the "eighteen-foot pole," both in estates and in highways. This is still apparent when ancient surveys are re-measured. The Proprietary grants were small and the "home lot" was often widely separated from the stated "common lot," or from the field of "one hundred acres." Hence, there were frequent applications from the grantees to the Town Meeting, that is, to the grantors themselves, for leave to surrender or exchange their fields for others in nearer neighborhoods to their "home lots." Thus, Roger Williams, 2d June, 1657, Early Records, pp. 105, 106, asked and received permission to surrender and exchange his allotment. After thirty years there was not much improvement. "January 6, 1670-71, laid out to Thomas Clemence, by John Whipple Sen^r Surveyor, five acres of lowlands more or less, being measured by the 18-foot pole, it lying & being on the North side of Wanasquatucket River, against the place called the Goatom, it bounding on the south side with the aforesaid Wanasquatucket river, & on the north with the Common, & on the south east, partly with the Common, & partly with the aforesaid river. It being bounded on the Western corner, with a maple tree, standing by the aforesaid river side, bounding on the northern corner with a rock, [which side of it?] & so as to range to a red oak tree which standeth by the Wonasquatucket riverside, which tree is on the North side of the river aforesaid, against the North eastern end of the hill commonly called Solitary hill. This land in form and manner as before expressed, was laid out to Thomas Clemence for a five acre lot, due to him from the Towne of his purchase right." "Recorded by & with the Town's consent January 27 1670- or 71."† This example shows many of the uncertainties to which conveyances were then liable.

*Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., pp. 197, 198.

†Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., pp. 161, 162.

Whatever defects or uncertainties of bounds could not be ascribed to the surveyors, were amply accounted for by previous purchases in the neighborhood. The Purchasers' grantees often believed—not without reason—that their lines were overlapped by new grants or surveys. (Early Records, Vol. II., p. 111.) Sometimes reckless or revengeful persons felled the oak trees which were the sole witnesses of titles. The ill-feeling against the Proprietors, which their exclusive claims had engendered, gave too much reason to believe that this was often prompted by malice.* Hence, arose the necessity for penal enactments against any one who had entitled himself to the ancient curse against him who "removed his neighbour's landmark." The willful felling of an ancient tree marked by the surveyor, was an offence often equivalent to the destruction of a deed or the forgery of a record.†

After a few years, the Proprietors and their successors began to complain that their home lots fell short of the legal measure, not reaching the dimensions of the six acres to which each one was entitled. It is observable that the complaint is always of a deficiency and never of an excess. If any thing of this sort were observed it speedily passed from recollection. It was never made a subject of complaint against the surveyors. No offer to restore it appears anywhere upon the records.

These proceedings affected men's titles to their homesteads and were never free from clamor and dispute. As farms became numerous, controversies about bounds multiplied in the same proportion, and a special town meeting might be called for any one of them. At length these became so frequent and wasted so many valuable hours in debates of interest only to private litigants, that the townsmen would not leave their homes in planting time or harvest, at the summons of the Town Sergeant.‡ As a measure of relief,

*Harris says that the small freeholders had borne none of the expenses, burdens and troubles of the first purchasers, and wished to have the same benefits as if they had.

†See Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., pp. 197, 198.

‡So much time was spent in adjusting the boundaries of new grants, and the Town Meetings became such an annoyance, that it was "ordered"

it became necessary to enact that so many as should appear, even at a Quarter-day Meeting, should be a legal quorum. The discussion of these tedious surveys must often have been accomplished in the presence of the ten or even of the seven drowsy freeholders who could be persuaded to attend, in order to save the meeting from failure. The fact that those who had little else to do and whose opinions were of the least weight and value, were often a large part of the assemblage, did not tend to sweeten the tempers of the contestants. It threw the responsibility of the proceedings chiefly upon the town clerk, who was also the clerk of the Proprietors, and thus tended to a concentration of power, perhaps not wholly needless in such an ill-organized community.

During twenty years (from 1640 to 1660), these dreary debates went on about public and private titles, at the Town Meeting and at the town mill. To whom did the Town's unsold acres belong? Little that was new could be said and the old straw was threshed over and over again. Neither party felt more confidence in the Town Meeting Courts, in their knowledge or their independence, than in the "arbitrators" of the old voluntary *régime*. Questions purely judicial, like Verin's, became affairs of town politics. At no period of the dispute did any party propose an appeal to England. They were never anxious to attract the attention either of Charles I. or the military aristocracy of Cromwell, styled "the State." The laws of real property had not been changed under the Commonwealth or under Cromwell, and during his rule some of the ablest of the old Common lawyers, Sir Matthew Hale among them, sat upon the "Upper Bench." Not to mention the costs, the results seemed too uncertain, so great had been the legal irregularities on both sides. The townsmen therefore kept the whole controversy and its issues in their own hands, and contented themselves with gaining such advantages as they might in the Town

27th October, 1656, "that if on the Quarter Days Company appear not according to a former law, then such as meet may proceed to act." October 1, 1657, "because of the often and present great difficulties in getting ten to make a town meeting, that if upon lawful warning, Seven only meet, their meeting shall be legal."—Early Records, Vol. II., pp. 98, 108.

Meeting. There some maintained, as Williams had always done, that his purchase was a "town stock" or public fund, of which the Proprietors were only trustees, although they had usurped the absolute ownership of the whole domain.* This party was numerous among the small freeholders and sometimes had the majority on "the great Town's Quarter day" and election day. They do not appear to have been much restrained in language or to have possessed legal or executive ability. The Proprietors were wary and sagacious and were better advised and led.† Williams and Gregory Dexter, the champions of the small landholders, found an overmatch at all points in William Harris and Thomas Olney.

If Williams asserted that he had intended to create a "town stock" or trust fund, Harris had law enough to answer him, that he had expressed no such purpose in the "Initial Deed," and that a new condition or covenant or construction could not be inserted in it by a subsequent declaration of one party. If Williams claimed that *his* wishes were to be decisive, as to the management of the estate, many were ready with the reply, that *he* had invited *them* into the wilderness and ought to have declared *then* what his purposes were, and not to have kept them secret until it was too late to retreat. They had endured their sufferings and losses, had thrown away all chances and opportunities in Massachusetts and expected to be repaid.‡ They in effect did tell him that he had created no trust and no means of enforcing the application of the purchase money arising from the sale of lots to the uses of the Town. Here was the weak point in Williams's machinery. He could not prevent the diversion of the fund to any other purpose. Courts and Town Meetings, parties and witnesses were all the same persons. They had entered into no covenants and they meant to insist upon the title as

*See Williams's "Answer," as he calls it, in the case of William Harris against the Town of Providence. (Rider's Historical Tract No. 14, p. 56.)

†Harris had some law books which he had carefully studied. One of them was "Coke upon Littleton," the great bible of the real property lawyers of old time.

‡Harris says (MS. letter) that their expenses in buying off Indian claims were £160 above what they paid to Williams.

they had received it.* There was something to be said, and it was said harshly and sharply on both sides. Williams had doubtless intended — we have his constant assertion of it — that the beneficial enjoyment of his purchase should be co-extensive with the town or “fellowship of vote.” He looked forward to a common interest of all the householders in the ownership of the town lands. Their revenues from sales to new comers were to be a fund for public improvements, as roads, bridges, &c., in aid of taxes which must fall heavily upon a new and poor community. They were not to be merely the dividends of a private company. But Williams had committed his purchase to a society which could tolerate nothing but a voluntary association, which could give him no legal redress. He positively denied that the first purchasers had paid for any thing but their own homesteads, and maintained that he had no intention of converting the “town stock” into a private estate for a mere fraction of its people. His design was far-seeing and statesmanlike, but it passed his legal skill to give effect to it. It is equally true that he had not expressed his design in the “Initial Deed” with sufficient clearness, if he had expressed it at all, and that he had trusted too far to his influence over his associates. (It is uncertain whether they knew what his exact purposes were when they came here. See his letter to Winthrop, before quoted.) They could reply that his work could not be done without them; that they had suffered the same hardships; that they were but ill-compensated for them by small allotments of land which *he* had valued at only thirty shillings each; that his deed to them of the Indian purchase should have been made upon mutual consultation and agreement, while he had only tendered them a conveyance which suited his own theories.†

Williams had probably anticipated the possession of a

*Williams had forced the “Initial Deed” upon them and they meant to hold him to the letter of his bargain.

†If Williams could quote Scripture as authority in a question of conveyancing, so also could Harris. He called attention to the fact that the words “for the use of cattle,” were the same as those used in the book of Leviticus to describe the possessions of the Levites, which were, according to the law of Moses, absolute and perpetual estates. Leviticus, chap. 25, v. 34. Numbers, chap. 35, v. 3.

greater authority in the town than had fallen to his share. This was a new experience for him — the attempt to retain political influence in a community which had no religious establishment. Heretofore, he had lived only in States in which religion was supported by law, and he had enjoyed the deference which its officers received from their fellow-citizens. He forgot that only the aid of the civil power had made John Cotton the foremost man in Massachusetts. Some years went by before the effect of his new development was fully perceived, and Williams saw that his opinion was now only that of a private citizen like his neighbors. They had left Massachusetts in order to rid themselves of the authority of the puritan ministers, who, when their reasonings failed to convince, could invoke the aid of the civil magistrates. Williams was not in the habit of consulting with other men or of being influenced by their judgment even when their rights were affected by his action.* He found that to be overruled by a majority, whom he knew to be his inferiors in culture and in experience, was a hard lesson to be learned. It need not surprise us that he sometimes displayed an irritability, natural enough, but to be regretted in a founder and a legislator. He was indignant at the defeat of the cherished project of his life, and he was not in the habit of giving to his emotions any subdued expression. It was not the custom of those days to be choice in epithets when one's feelings were excited, and he was no exception to the fashion of his time. His example furnished a precedent and a temptation to others. Unity, even in matters relating to their own interests, was destroyed.† There were no vessels, not even fishing craft, such as Massachusetts in her earliest days patronized and encouraged. Population did not flow in to avail itself of the freedom of Mooshassuc. Men would not coöperate even in building up the town. As for example: Mr. Hoote, who had learned the craft in England, proposed to set up iron works in a region now known to us as Cranston. Williams favored the project, but the local feuds were so bitter

*See Richard Scott's letter in Fox's "New England's Firebrand Quenched."

†See Bartlett's Colonial Records.

that the townsmen would not join even in this useful work, and the projector departed, it seems, to aid in building up the fortunes of New Jersey. (The Proprietors built no vessels for themselves and would not allow any others to pay a price for the timber or to engage in any commercial business.)*

As might have been expected, there were but few indications of increasing population. Immigrants were not many, and of those who fixed their abode here not many sought admission as "freemen of the colony."†

Even in these latter days the benignity of men's spirits is little increased by so many adverse circumstances. The controversy about the town lands went on, in its only forum, the Town Meeting, and at the only other place of concourse, "the town mill." No practical measure was presented to give a solution to the difficulty. There were only debates which threatened to be as endless as they were useless, and which sometimes proceeded from abuse to violence. Williams was not without skill in the old 17th century art of reviling, in scripture language, and we may well believe that many of his fellow-citizens were not far behind him.

This went on until 1651. The colony was now satisfied that better securities were required to protect it against its neighbors and against itself. In that year Roger Williams and John Clarke were sent to England as agents of the *colony* to obtain, if possible, a new and better charter. Williams soon learned that there was not at that time much hope of obtaining from the Puritan government a charter embodying his own cherished ideas. During many months he persevered in the attempt, and the latter part of his sojourn in England was passed at Belleau, the country-seat of Sir Henry Vane. While there the chief topic of Williams's conversation must have been furnished by the affairs of New England, and he set forth his own views of Rhode Island politics with his accustomed warmth and zeal. At the close of his visit to Bel-

*Weeden (Soc. and Econ. History of N. E.), Vol. 1, pp. 137, 151, cites authorities to prove that vessels were built in Newport so early as 1646. But in Providence there were none until the 17th century was drawing to a close.

†Wm. Harris says, that just before the Indian War (1676), the population of the township was about five hundred souls. (MS. letter.)

leau, which was also the end of his visit to England, Williams persuaded Vane to embody in a letter his views of the conduct and behavior of the people of Rhode Island. The facts on which his censures were grounded were furnished by Williams. Harris and Thomas Olney were not there to modify them or to suggest that there might be another side to the controversy. However partial it might be in setting forth the views of Williams alone, the letter does honor to Sir Henry Vane's feeling in behalf of the distracted colony. It was the sharpest letter ever addressed to the people of Rhode Island.* Vane keenly reproves them for their "divisions," "headiness," "tumults," "disorders," and "injustice," and asks, "Are there no wise men among you? No public, self-denying spirits that at least upon the grounds of public safety, equity and prudence, can find out some way or means of union and reconciliation for you among themselves before you become a prey to common enemies?" He judges that it must be a "high and dangerous distemper" for which kind and simple remedies are ineffectual. He advises the appointment of commissioners to adjust their difficulties. But none such could be found in Rhode Island. Massachusetts and Connecticut were willing to see the dispute go on, in hope to profit by it, however it might end. There were disquiets and disturbances in every part of the colony, and the parties to each were ready to apply Sir Henry Vane's censures to their adversaries. If we should at this day attempt to distribute his reproaches of the townsmen of Providence among those to whom they belong, we might very plausibly ascribe the "headiness and injustice" to the Proprietors, and the "tumults and disorders" to the freeholders of the Town. By being their bearer, Williams adopted and approved the censures. Whether it were politic to expose his own influence to farther attack, we need not enquire. That it had this effect is evident from his own mournful letter to the Town of Providence, written August, 1654. "It is said, I am as good as banished by yourselves and that both sides wished I might never have landed, that the fire of contention might have had no stop in burning." This letter is in Williams's best man-

*Sir Henry Vane's letter was dated at Belleau, 8th February, 1653-54.

ner. He was self-restrained and guarded in his utterances in public documents. It was in his private acts and writings that he displayed his ill-judgment. There was one suggestion in the letter of Sir Henry Vane to which it behooved the townsmen to give heed. They did so. "They were in danger," says he, "of becoming a prey to common enemies." Vane knew what was going on in England. At the council boards of Cromwell, Massachusetts and Connecticut were at work to obtain the revocation of the charter of Rhode Island. If they were successful, its territory would be divided, and its religious guarantees swept away. All knew that Cromwell was the fast friend of Massachusetts, and that the danger was not ideal. The men of Providence yielded to the necessity, and consented to the submission of one of their controversies with William Harris to a court named by the Governor of the United Colonies. They became for a time more restrained and decorous in their proceedings, and then relapsed into their old habits.

Sir Henry Vane's letter was addressed to the Colony and not to the Town, and there was no necessity for the Town to answer it.* Dexter's reply is evasive. He passes over in silence the disturbances in Providence, and meekly confesses the sins of Coddington and Dyer in Newport. He asserts that Providence had always been true to the liberties for the sake of which it had been founded. This was true enough, but not relevant, as there had been no complaint against Providence on that account. Dexter had reason for omitting the mention of a controversy in which his own share had been both conspicuous and unwise. Williams's popularity and influence suffered a temporary eclipse, but it revived, for he was a man too valuable and important to be thrown aside.

As respects the townsmen, much of their turbulence and their tendency to quarrels and even to outbreaks in the Quarter-day Meetings, may charitably be ascribed to inexperience. In Massachusetts, none but members of the Puritan parishes were voters while the first charter lasted, and the

*Williams's letter to Vane was dated August 27, 1654. It was written by Williams and signed by Dexter as Town Clerk. Dexter probably made some small additions or changes.

earliest freemen of Mooshassuc numbered among themselves but few of these. The graduates of the English Cambridge and of the American Harvard exacted the deference of the uneducated men, and those who did not yield it had small opportunity of a hearing in the Town Meetings. These were ruled by the fortunate possessors of wealth, culture and sanctity, and a man of humble station had small opportunity to acquire political experience. When some of these withdrew to Mooshassuc it is not surprising that they lacked self-control in matters where their interests or their passions were concerned. Two hundred and fifty years ago experience in public affairs was possessed by comparatively few. The Legislature of Massachusetts was open only to the elect, and the magistrates and elders permitted little adverse debate in parish meetings. There was but one religious society in Providence and that was but a small one. There was no other place for speech or discussion, and in the Town Meeting personal interests and passions sometimes broke over control among these unrestrained disputants. The townsmen were, as a body, more moderate than their leaders, and when they seriously disapproved, their censure fell equally upon Williams and upon Harris, upon Olney and upon ffield, the leaders, both of the Proprietors and of the freeholders. At the present day every school has a society of some sort amongst its boys, and one of their earliest lessons is, the method of conducting the business of a public assembly. Any thing of this kind would have been esteemed presumption by those who practiced the stern family discipline of the 17th century. The future rulers of the Town were left to pick up their political education in the rough school of experience. They did so but slowly in the first generation at Mooshassuc.

The earlier records contain allusions to brawls and disturbances. They sometimes involved the leaders of both parties. One specimen will suffice :* "June 4, 1655," . . . "R. Williams, Moderator. Whereas there hath been great debate this day *about* Tho. Olnie, Robert Williams, Jno. ffield, Will Harris and others, concerning the matter of a tumult and disturbance in the winter under a pretence of voluntary train-

*Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 81.

ing, it was at last concluded by vote, that for the colony's sake, who hath chosen Thomas Olnie an assistant, and for the public union and peace sakes, it should be passed by and no more mentioned." It was now June Quarter-day, and this particular quarrel seems to have kept the town in a ferment during three or four months. The disputants have left traces of their ability behind them. Thomas Olney added political to religious reasons for not cherishing a warm affection for Williams. The irritable temper of Williams sometimes overcame his judgment, and where pugnacity was required, whether in word or action, William Harris was equal to the occasion.

He was not always responsible for such occurrences. The language used by Gregory Dexter and his party was much more irritating. But Harris never declined his share in a controversy when it arose. On this day, Williams had the opportunity of learning the opinions of his neighbors by hearing a discussion of his own conduct by such disputants as Harris and Richard Scott, and of taking the vote upon a resolution which was equally a censure upon himself, upon his own party and upon their adversaries. That this particular brawl had begun early and lasted long may be learned from an entry upon the same page. [Early Records, Vol. II., p. 81.] "Whereas Henry Fowler was warned to the court to answer for his marriage without due publication, and he pleaded that the divisions of the town were the cause of his so doing, the town voted a remission of his penalty." June 4, 1655. This was a bold and justly successful answer to the townsmen. From want of religious congregations, publications of marriages were made in town meeting during the greater part of the 17th century. This was the first business in the order of the day. They were made by the Town Sergeant, whose stentorian voice was deemed more fit for the purpose than that of the elderly moderator. Henry Fowler was a young man of just twenty-one years. He had grown up with Mr. ffoote, the ironmaster before mentioned, probably as his apprentice, and still lived at his house. As he failed to secure a hearing for his publication by the sergeant, he and his friends waited no longer. He was married without it at Mr. ffoote's house the same even-

ing. His defence in substance was, that the Town Meeting was so disturbed by the fathers of the village that even the publication of marriages became impossible. If they would see the young men respect the law, they should themselves first afford an example. The townsmen accepted the reproof and remitted the penalty. Williams was justly indignant at the conduct of both parties to this affair, at the pusillanimous behavior of the moderator and the sergeant in failing to enforce silence and make the publication, and at the lawless acts of the bridegroom and his friends. This is a specimen of the manner in which men had learned to conduct themselves under the voluntary association in Mooshassuc in the 17th century. This may suffice for an example. Other disturbances arose during the first century of the town. But even when they are mentioned in the letters of Williams, they are charitably omitted from the town record.

Some other discords there were, between Williams and the Proprietors, respecting the administration of their estate. Williams had desired at the beginning that this should be a place of refuge for those "distressed for conscience." The offer, if ever expedient, was so no longer. The Presbyterians asked for no refuge in the colonies eastward of New York. The Puritan had his peculiar abode in New England, where he had become a persecutor in his turn. All sober-minded people who chose to emigrate were welcomed. But Williams did not yield up his fancy that a large reservation should be provided for those of other countries who were in distress of conscience. How a proper discrimination could be made among the applicants, does not appear. Emigrants for conscience's sake, were, in that generation, more extreme and often more turbulent and pugnacious than they are at present. Many could not distinguish between their consciences and their passions. Those who were most likely to come in large numbers, were precisely those whom foreign governments would be least desirous to retain at home. Some had been soldiers, many blended religious notions with those of anarchy and sedition in a fashion now gone by. The "fami-lists" or "family of love,"* enjoyed in their day a reputation

*In the "Dictionary of National Biography" (MacMillan), may be

not unlike that of the emigrants to Utah in recent years. The "fifth Monarchy men," were of very various characters and conditions, for Sir Henry Vane has been reckoned among them. They were not so much an organized sect, as holders of an opinion widely diffused and liable to become dangerous in times when old institutions were breaking up and no one knew what was coming in their place. The conception of government among the men of the fifth monarchy, was a perversion of the biblical vision in the Book of Daniel. After the rise and fall of the four great monarchies, Babylonian, Assyrian, Macedonian and Roman, was to come the kingdom of the Messiah. How was this kingdom to be set up and by whom? It was not clear to all men that the Roman empire was even then at an end, and what means were to be employed to inaugurate its successor? This party had two wings, one ready to employ physical force for bringing in the kingdom, the other seeking to attain their end by peaceful and legitimate means. Of the first description was Harrison, the Parliamentary General, who was willing to resort to the "holy text of pike and gun," for setting up the kingdom of Christ in England. But he stood in too great awe of Oliver Cromwell to make the attempt. Europe had not long before emerged from a religious war of thirty years. It seemed to many that every object, religious or political, could be obtained by military force. There was fighting everywhere and all sorts of fanatics dreamed of accomplishing their purposes by armed insurrection. Their conception of religious liberty was vastly unlike that of Williams. If by any chance they could have gained a foothold here his institutions would have vanished away like shadows. In England a multitude of dazed fanatics, military and others, were ready to join in an uprising which would have ended as such enterprises generally do. They made no general insurrection, but were so strong and restless as to give uneasiness to the Puritan governments, so long as there were any. In such a condition of affairs, it would have been a proceeding of very doubtful wisdom to offer an invitation to a multitude in England who thought themselves "dis-

found an account of Henry Nichlaes or Nicholas, the founder of the "Familists" or "Family of Love," which will give all the information which is necessary.

tressed for conscience," but who had really little toleration for any opinions but their own, and who would have been far more formidable antagonists to the social order of Rhode Island than Gorton. If intelligence had reached London that a large reserve had been set apart in Rhode Island for persons who had suffered from State arrests or prosecutions, and that a sure refuge and maintenance were awaiting them there,—exaggerated as these tales would have been in the transmission,—there would have been danger of a large emigration of anarchists as undesirable as those of our own day. They could come in such numbers that a small and weak colony could neither control nor expel them ; and its institutions if assailed by the fifth-monarchy men, would, in no long time, have been superseded by those of the Massachusetts or Cromwellian pattern. These were the most numerous and most formidable of the fanatical sects of the period. There were others equally ready to gain their ends by force. Men who lived in a steadfast faith in an approaching conflagration of the world, would not have been scared by such trifles as a mere confiscation of property. This danger was not merely imaginary in that generation. The Proprietors would never assent to Williams's proposal of a large reservation for the benefit of "persons distressed for conscience." It was necessary to be assured by their own examination, what consciences they had, and that there were not too many of them. The Town Meeting would never allow Williams or Clarke to publish any such invitation in England. Among Williams's letters of this period is one of unknown date, in which he complains that a tract which he desired to be reserved as a refuge for the persecuted was about to be sold by the Proprietors. Harris and Olney knew something about their own generation in England. They refused to aid a project like this or even to let its existence be known. It is difficult to condemn their judgment. The Proprietors were sustained by the freeholders, and the scheme came to an end.* The Proprietors, however, did make some reservation from their estate, but with views wholly secular, for the relief of the

*Thus another of Williams's chief designs in the Plantations at Moos-hassuck proved a failure, being defeated by his grantees.

townsmen and especially of the less wealthy citizens. It was designed to afford them some provisions of fire-wood and other domestic supplies, and to allay discontents, to which the Proprietors were not insensible. The only persons to be benefited were the residents of the town, and their bodies only, and not their consciences, were to be regarded. Thus, on the 7th of February, 1658, an order was made in the Town Meeting for certain lands on the Wonasquatucket to be in perpetual common. It was not then carried into effect, "for," says Thomas Olney, "which said order by reason of damage which our Town records sustained in the late Indian War hath miscarried." It appears, however, from some extracts yet remaining from the Proprietors' records, that, in 1658, a large tract of land, containing a thousand acres or more, was "stated perpetually to lie in common." It "embraced a considerable part of what is now North Providence and terminated with the hill north of the Cove and Great Point." This order was lost or miscarried in the Indian wars. But the Proprietors' meeting on the second day of December, 1685, "in view of the necessity of some lands perpetually to be and lie in common, near unto our town for the use and benefit of the inhabitants," . . . "enacted and ordered that all the tract mentioned afore, which was then in common, should forever remain and be in common, and that all parts of said tract which were then taken up, by any person, which should at any time thereafter be laid down to common, should continually so remain, which order was declared irreversible without the full and unanimous consent of the *whole number* of the purchasers." This last was a very common formula, easily disregarded. The reservation was wholly secular in its purposes. It remained entire until the 13th of March, 1724. We shall see what then became of it. (See Town Meeting Records, 1823, Book 9, pp. 279-80. A report of a committee drawn up by the late Judge Staples.)*

*There was now some movement towards the most promising fields in the valley of the Blackstone, but its river was too large for the men of that day. They could not use or control its immense power, and with their humble capital they did not need it, and could not improve it. Their sawmills and gristmills were better served by the narrower streams in the western part of their territory, and towards them was the first movement of emigration.

With all its discouragements the town was slowly increasing, and its population was moving in every direction into the proprietary lands. Chad Brown and others had made purchases of lands beyond the western boundary of Williams's Indian deed; and had purchased from the native occupants their growing crops and whatever else they claimed. (See Williams's first letter to John Whipple, II. Bartlett's Colonial Records, p. 293.)* Some of these had established their homesteads outside of Williams's purchase and had obtained a title from the Proprietors. As many other colonists had done, they confounded property with jurisdiction and continued to vote in the Providence Town Meetings, although they did not reside within the boundaries of Williams's purchase. They were allowed or encouraged to do so by the Proprietors. In this they were not inconsistent, for they claimed that the whole country west of them was theirs in fee simple, under the second "memorandum" in the Sachem's "deed,"—"up streams"—the streams of Pautuckqut and Pawtuxet "without limits we might have for the use of cattle." The Proprietors were glad of any accession to the number of those who settled in the uninhabited territory, who gave some value to their unsold lands and became supporters of their proprietary title. The Proprietors had always claimed that the words of the "memorandum" vested in them not a mere right of pasturage but a corporeal estate, a fee simple in the soil itself. So long as the population was very small the question excited little interest. The small freeholders who supported the opinions of Williams, had taken it for granted that the soil west of the Indian boundary still belonged to the Narragansetts, and that a new purchase from them would vest the whole property in the *Town* (not in the *Proprietors*), up to the Connecticut line. They were astonished and indignant at the claim of the Proprietors, that it was their own already, and that the inequality of estates and conditions was to know no end. They denied that the settlers on the west side of the Indian line were residents of the Town of Providence, or possessed any right to vote. The constituency of the town was thus drawn in question and a new and yet more heated controversy began. Harris and Olney resolutely con-

*See Williams's letters to Winthrop, p. 330, Narr. Club's ed.

tended that they had acquired the whole territory through the "Initial Deed" from Williams. A new disputant now takes a prominent part in the debate.* Gregory Dexter had received a home lot in 1637, and had signed the first compact in 1640. He was one of Williams's successors in his religious society. He was addicted to warmth, if not to violence of language, and had sufficient indiscretion to ruin any party which he undertook to lead. In a temporary defeat and unpopularity of the Proprietors, he had become town clerk, holding the most important and influential office in the town. During Williams's absence in England, Dexter, by his fluency and readiness in public address, became the chief of the party of the freeholders, and the controversy lost nothing in vigor and virulence. It had now lasted fifteen years. It seemed that something should be done for its adjustment, and Dexter felt himself called to do it. As town clerk, Dexter had possession of the town book, and could insert in it such documents as he thought proper for public information, whether or not they had been adopted by the town. He seems to have imagined that he could bring on or force a settlement of this irritating dispute, and drafted his offensive propositions in appropriately offensive language. They are not the resolutions of a Town Meeting or in any manner official, but were for general circulation and for permanence as a political platform or manifesto.

(See Williams's second letter to John Whipple, Rider's Hist. Tract No. 14.) The "*Sovereign Plaister*" was undoubtedly the composition of Dexter. He alone of his party could venture on a Latin quotation. It expresses the opinion of Williams and of those who sympathized with him. He declares his approval of its propositions, but is carefully silent as to the language in which they are expressed.†

"27th 2d mo. 1653. So Gregory Dexter wrote its *Salus Populi Suprema lex*. An instrument, or Sovereign Plaister, to

*As a printer, in London, Gregory Dexter had been brought into connexion with religious disputants at a time when their strifes were especially virulent. He was not well fitted for the work of a peacemaker in a distracted colony.

†Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 72.

heal the manifested present sores in this town or Plantation of Providence, which do arise about lands, and to prevent the further spreading of them, both amongst ourselves, and the whole colony, necessary forthwith to be improved and applied, lest this town should fall into greivous sores or gangrenes to the hurt of the whole colony, and thereby, this town, which was the first in this Bay, become the worst, and that only about land in the wilderness. Per Gregory Dexter (then Recorder)."

After this harsh and irritating introduction of a proposal of peace, Dexter proceeds to give his opinion touching the conduct and claims of the Proprietors.

"Whereas, it doth manifestly appear that all the acts, orders and records which are written in the Town Book are called the Town acts, orders and records, and therefore lawful, binding, &c., of what nature and condition soever they be, whether just or unjust, healthful or hurtful, to the body ; and,

"Whereas, we upon serious consideration, being the major part of the town aforesaid, finding several acts, orders and records acted in the town's name, to be of this nature and condition, viz. : so destructive to the common benefit and peace of this town, and being so unreasonable, dishonest and unlawful that we cannot according to the rules of common prudence and humanity, but declare against them. 1st. That act to divide to the men of Pawtuxet 20 miles is hereby declared against as unjust and unreasonable, not being healthful but hurtful to the body."*

Upon their construction of the "Initial Deed," the Pawtuxet lands were, in the estimate of the freeholders, as expressed by Dexter, so much taken from the general "town stock" or fund and given exclusively to a small body of Proprietors. This (No. 1), if it means anything, is a suggestion of a confiscation or resumption of the Pawtuxet purchase.

"2d. Whereas, great and manifold troubles hath befallen both to ourselves and the whole colony by reason of that phrase 'up streams without limit we might have for the use of our cattle ;' for preventing of future contention, we de-

*Dexter forgot that his friend Williams was a party to it.

clare that the bounds are limited in our town evidence, and by us stated about twenty years since, and known to be the river and fields of Pawtucket, Sugar loaf hill, Bewitt's brow, Observation Rock, Absolute Swamp, Orfoord's and Hipsie's rock ; and the men who were appointed to set it, were Chad Brown, Hugh Bewitt, Gregory Dexter, Wm. Wickenden, and furthermore determine that our [construction] (original writing obscure) of the Deed, and also that privilege for the use of cattle [from time] to time declared to us, so it shall be recorded and no otherwise, and no other privilege by virtue of the said phrase, to be challenged by this town, viz. : that if the cattle went beyond the bounds prefixed in the said deed granted to him, the owners of the cattle should be no trespassers, the cattle going so far in one day to feed as they might come home at night.*

"3d. And whereas, some of us have desired of the colony leave to purchase for this town some enlargement, which was granted, and by the great diligence of our neighbour Williams with the natives more land is bought adjoining to the said bounds, and the purchasers have met and agreed about the equal dividing of them, as appeareth by their three conclusions ; first, that all men that have paid equal share shall have equal in this division of 50 acres to each purchaser, whether they be twenty-five acre men or other, even so we agree it shall be, any former agreements or acts to the contrary notwithstanding, and furthermore that all the other acts and agreements made and concluded upon by the purchasers in their several meetings touching these lands, betwixt the said old bounds and *the seven mile line*, is hereby declared by us, so that it shall be, in all respects, all former or later act or acts, agreement or agreements, thing or things done, Record or Records to the contrary notwithstanding.

"4th. That no disposal of lands, or recording of lands or changing of lands shall be accounted this Town's acts, unless the number of 21 of the Purchasers appears and that, only respecting these lands within the said old bounds *Townwards*, any former act to the contrary notwithstanding."

*Dexter and his followers did not or would not see that this proposal (No. 2) would have opened the territory to settlers and purchasers from Massachusetts, as well as from among themselves.

By this conciliatory proposal it seems that the small freeholders desired to narrow the proprietary purchase to Williams's original bounds, and to make a new purchase beyond it, in which all classes, Proprietors, &c., twenty-five acre men and freeholders should come in on equal terms — rich and poor alike.*

There is a singular inconsistency in the dates mentioned in this document. In Dexter's third proposition, he refers to the "seven mile line." This line was not established until May 14, 1660,† while the "Sovereign Plaister," was presented April 27, 1653. The "Sovereign Plaister" is undoubtedly genuine and of this year, for it is referred to by Williams in his letter to the Town, a few weeks later, in the same year. I can only conjecture that in its original form, it was even more restrictive of the proprietary claim, and that when Dexter and his party learned that it could never be carried through the Town Meeting or the Legislature, it was thought necessary some years later to modify it and to offer a compromise which extended the rights of the Proprietors as far west as the seven mile line, and that the paper copied into the Town Book was altered accordingly. This was not an alteration of a public record, for it had as yet no authority from the Town Meeting. The document as we have it seems to be a revised version of the original. (See Williams's second letter to Whipple.)

During the absence of Williams in England, Dexter had acquired or assumed the leadership of the popular party in Providence. In the heat of political excitement, he had become more extreme in his opinions and more violent in his language. The "Sovereign Plaister" alone remains, by which we can estimate the sobriety of his judgment, and the results of his success. Soon after this paper was put in circulation, Williams arrived in Providence. He was the bearer of Sir Henry Vane's letter, which probably increased the excitement already existing. He could not have been long in Mooshassuc without hearing of the "Sovereign Plaister" and

*This (No. 4) would have made sales and transfers by the Proprietors much more difficult, some times impossible.

†Early Records, Vol. II., p. 129.

its irritating effects. He saw the blundering of Dexter and his party in using language of so harsh a character in a matter which affected the titles and homesteads of so many of the foremost townsmen. [In later years Williams was careful to restrain his approval to the "proposals" of Dexter, saying nothing about their language.] Letter to John Whipple. Rider's Hist. Tract No. 14, p. 37. "What matter of force was there in Mr. Dexter's* *three* proposals for peace and accommodation? Were they not honest, equal and peaceable to any that minded not their own cabins more than the common good of our poor tossed Barke & vessell?" Williams had ample opportunity to observe the temper of his fellow-townsmen as this new document circulated among them. (p. 37.) "Our peace was like y^e peace of a man which hath a tertian ague. Every other day yea sometimes every meeting we were all on fire, and had a terrible burning fit, ready to come to blows, about our lines, about our lands, and y^e twenty-five acre men & purchasers, as yo^rselves have confessed, &c." Williams saw the injury which Dexter had done to the cause of the freeholders, by his indiscreet zeal in their behalf. In his letter to the Town soon afterwards, he expressed himself as ready to abandon the claims which had been made; but the author of them did not yield, and Williams to the close of his life was not satisfied of their injustice. (See second letter to Whipple, in Rider's Tract No. 14, p. 37.) The controversy went on as did the brawls in the Town Meeting. If we were to conjecture when the "tumults and heats" of these assemblies reached their height, we may believe that it was upon the very day when the "Sovereign Plaister" was spread between the shoulders of the body politic.†

Notes upon the "Sovereign Plaister." First. The extension of the Pawtuxet lands to the twenty mile line (afterwards the Connecticut border) did not affect any right of Providence men, according to Dexter and Williams's own theory;

*It seems by this, that Dexter's proposals were originally but three, and that the fourth was added at a later day.

†There is nothing in the "Sovereign Plaister," except its rancour, which would not be regarded as unconstitutional in a party platform of the present day.

according to them, the land was open to purchasers. The Pawtuxet men had availed themselves of the opportunity in buying the land belonging to the Indians on the west of Williams's Indian line. This act of the Pawtuxet men saved the land to the colony. Dexter hints at resumption, and Williams says (letter to Whipple), "that some in the Town Street talked about revoking the Pawtuxet purchase, and some said that the 25 acre men had paid an equal penny & therefore should have an equal purchase." Dexter seems to have forgotten, if he had ever known, the legal maxim, "*fieri non debet, factum valet*," or that a public grant once completely vested in possession should ever afterwards be maintained. He did not know that a grant of fifteen years' standing could not be revoked without a shock to all rights of property, which would have been most injurious to the honor and credit of the colony, and perhaps have led to another secession more disastrous to it than that of Coddington. Second. "Up streams without limits," &c. This was an attempt to force the Town Meeting to decide a matter of judicial cognizance only, and to force a re-sale of lands which the Proprietors had already sold. With their lands the settlers west of Williams's Indian line would have lost their rights to vote without a re-purchase. There was something to irritate everybody. The Proprietors were sufficiently indignant already. The "twenty-five acre men," little as they or their boys may have regarded the restrictions upon their rights of common, yet stood by the Proprietors whenever their title was drawn in question. They justly regarded their own expectations of property west of the seven mile line, under the Proprietors' deeds, as worth more than any thing which Dexter could promise them of gains at the Proprietors' expense. They gave no support to Dexter or to Williams. The small freeholders who caused most of the trouble,* had, as Harris says, come in at a later day, and purchased small holdings. They were now clamorous, although they had no

*The Town Meeting could not be persuaded to adopt the "Sovereign Plaister," in its original form. It was not until June 3, 1667, that the Town Meeting "Voted & ordered it to be recorded in the Records of the Town;" with the alterations which subsequent events had made necessary, it was so recorded.

legal claims, having bought their land with all its encumbrances upon it, and having borne none of the burdens of the first planters. The most prominent citizens, as Chad Brown, Wickenden, Abbott, had made no complaints and had not endeavored to repudiate their bargain. The members of Williams's former religious society must have been scandalized by the injurious reflections cast by Dexter upon his fellow-member, Thomas Olney. Some of the Proprietors were also of the society, and a new emotion must have been awakened among them by an agitation equally offensive to their piety and their interests. It may explain what is obscure, through the loss of their early records, that not long afterwards, Gregory Dexter ceased to be an elder, and that Thomas Olney, whom he had publicly charged with dishonesty was chosen in his stead.* Although no practical result came of these contests, yet there was something to excite alarm. There was no check upon confiscation in those days. There had been enough of it in England. There might be here, as appears by Verin's case. The loss of his homestead and investments was threatened, solely by reason of his non-residence. When Olney, Harris and John Field were forced to unite in order to avert the danger with which Dexter threatened the security of property, it could not be foreseen whose estate might be wrested from him by the Town Meeting.† The Proprietors, however, irritated by the "Sovereign Plaister," retained their self-control and made no reply or protest. They changed none of their methods. There was not much demand for farms or homesteads (See Harris's letter, MS.), but such as there was, the Proprietors were ready to supply it, as if nothing had happened. They went on with their sales and no one hesitated to accept them. Their calm indifference was probably more irritating to Dexter and Williams than any number of resolutions or tracts. However impassive in appearance, they did not forget insults, and nourished their wrath until the time came for its exhibition.

*Benedict's History of American Baptists, Vol. I., p. 478.

†See Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 105. "The Proprietors were in the minority on that day, for Arthur Fenner, the leader of the freeholders, was chosen moderator."

May, 1657. Williams's next encounter with William Harris was one of his own seeking, and was one of the most unfortunate passages of his life. It displayed a vindictiveness, which, notwithstanding his occasional warmth of language, was not usual with him. In May, 1657, while president of the colony, he appeared at the General Court of Commissioners, which was also the highest judicial tribunal, with an *impeachment* against Harris for high treason against Oliver Cromwell. It was subscribed only "Roger Williams, President." He then became the prosecutor as well as the presiding judge. The attorney general (the general attorney as they then called him) did not appear in support of the accusation, nor any one as prosecutor or witness. It was the work of Williams alone, and is an example of his manner of acting without foresight and without consultation or advice. All that is now known of this "impeachment," is contained in a MS. letter from Harris to Captain Dean, of London, of Nov. 14, 1666. Harris says that it contained observations like these: "There had been twenty English gentlemen executed at Tyburn that had not done so much as William Harris had done." He "also shows in his said indictment, what dismembering and disembowelling there should be in such cases." Harris also complains of Williams's perversion and falsifying of his words. He says that "Williams sent a copy of his charges to Sir Henry Vane, who charitably said he thought he was beside himself, and that he did willingly mistake me, saying I was against all governments. It appears that, far before he indicted me for high treason, he indicted me first for contempt of all governments; and it being demanded whether 'guilty or not guilty,' I answered, 'not guilty.' And the verdict of the jury was 'not guilty.' Yet afterwards he indicted me upon his former ground, for high treason, as being against all government, which falsely he said, in the judgment of the jury. His difference and mine grew by reason of some simple, harmless people that will not defend themselves, but suffer all things; and will not fight, nor swear, nor take an engagement to any governor or governments, for which cause, Mr. Williams would have sent them to England, for which cause he indicted them; therefore I

wrote to him telling him of his former large professions of liberty of conscience, &c. Whereupon his great wrath and wickedness came forth, and yet remain."

Harris was evidently alarmed. This is apparent from his own letters, and from his last will. In this he used all the skill of the conveyancer to put his ample estate in strict settlement; avowing his purpose that it should be free from any further danger of forfeiture or confiscation. Harris had good reason for anxiety, for no one could foresee the decision of unlearned judges, swayed by the passions of the people who elected them. It might, however, be safely predicted, that they would take care of themselves, as in fact they did. Impeachment was a popular remedy in that age for chronic political disorders, and Williams thought that it would have a salutary effect in Mooshassuc, by ridding him of his chief political opponent. The court was embarrassed. If reports should reach England, exaggerated as they would be, that Rhode Island was merely a nest of traitors, the story would be turned to account by the neighbor colonies, as a sufficient reason for a revocation of the charter, and a partition of the territory, followed by an establishment of the Massachusetts *régime*. The judges felt that it was necessary to do, or at least to say, something, and speedily adjourned the matter for a full hearing at its session in July, at Warwick. They ordered Harris to appear there, and "doe require the General Attorney to take notice of the case, and to take out a Summons, to require Mr. Roger Williams there to appeare and to make out his charge face to face." Under this grave accusation, Harris was subjected to no restraint, but was only required to give security for his appearance. The general attorney did "take notice of the case," by carefully avoiding it altogether. It seems that Harris had written a "booke" or tract, which was never printed, but which had only been circulated in MS. and which is not known to be now extant. We have no information of the places or the extent of its publication, or of the effect which it produced.

At the July session, at Warwick, Harris appeared. He was a bold man and never hesitated to avow any thing which he had done or written. It was ordered by the court that he should "reade his booke," and Mr. Williams shall "view the

original." Probably he accompanied his reading by comments in his sharp and rasping manner. There was no other evidence, and he was called upon for no farther defence. The prudent general attorney "took notice of the case" and was detained by urgent private business, from both sessions of the court at which this affair was pending,—a thing never before or since heard of at the Rhode Island bar. He had too clear a view of the evil to come to the Cromwellian government. What if some turn of fortune should bring the "Kingsmen" once more into power? What would then become of the political fortunes of the office holders in Rhode Island? He kept carefully aloof and the court appointed a substitute. The case was conducted by Williams, although he was president or governor at the time. Williams averred that Harris had maintained "that he who can say, it is my conscience, ought not to yield subjection to any human order among men." This seems to have been Williams's inference from Harris's "booke." As Cromwell's rule seemed then to be the only possible one, whoever denied that denied all human government whatever. Williams imputed to Harris the inferences which he himself drew from the pamphlet. This was the very injustice of which he himself had complained when it was committed by the elders of Massachusetts. The court was ill at ease. The judges saw the expediency of quieting the whole affair and referred the "booke" to two of their own number, with instructions to report upon it by four o'clock the same afternoon. The committee accomplished their task and the court delivered their judgment with tolerable expedition for the heat of a July day. (See Vol. I., Bartlett's R. I. Col. Records, p. 364.) "Concerning W. Harris, his booke and speeches upon it, we find therein delivered as for doctrines having much bowed the Scriptures, to maintain that he who can say, 'it is my conscience,' ought not to yield subjection to any human order amongst men. Whereas the said Harris hath been charged for the sayd booke & wordes, with high treason, and inasmuch as we being so remote from England, cannot be so well acquainted with the laws thereof, in that behalfe provided, as the State now stands, though we cannot but consider his behaviour therein to be both con-

temptuous & seditious, we thought best thereupon to send over his writings with the charges & his reply, to Mr. John Clarke, desiring him to commend the matter, in our Commonwealth's behalf, for farther judgment as he shall see the cause requires, and in the mean time, bind the said Harris in good bonds, to the good behaviour, until therein, sentence be given." By this trimming decision, the court decide nothing ; but the judges are careful to offend neither party, Kingsmen or Cromwellians. They cast the whole responsibility upon John Clarke. He was a man of sense, and he "saw cause to do nothing." Probably these documents never left his hands. Antiquarian research in English archives has not discovered them. The loss of William Harris's "booke" has deprived us of much information respecting the limits of free discussion considered permissible by the founder of the State. By these indiscreet proceedings, taken upon his own responsibility without consultation with others, Williams had endangered the colony, and he was the chief sufferer. He was not re-elected as president of the colony the next year, nor ever again. In later days, when Charles II. had been quietly restored, and the people of Rhode Island were in the enjoyment of a charter more liberal than any which a Puritan government would ever give, Williams was the subject of much acrimonious remark, and he does not seem very successful in explaining away his share in this transaction. The freeholders, whose advocate he was, lost through his indiscretion the support of the Foxians (mostly Kingsmen), during their long control of the government. The prosecution of Harris, Williams would gladly have forgotten ; but the Quakers, in whom there was as much of the "Old Adam" as in most other people, were never weary of reminding him of it.*

Inferences very different from those of Williams's were

*The Quakers had good reason to be interested in his case, for the doctrines imputed to Harris, were not unlike those held by many or most of themselves. Harris intimates that if it had been in his power Williams would have banished them from Rhode Island. They were still but few and weak, but when a few years later, their day of power came, they remembered the friendship of Harris, and carried him and his party of Proprietors safely through all their difficulties.

drawn by the Quaker readers of William Harris's "booke." (See *New England's Firebrand Quenched*.) These asserted that he had only maintained that the Parliament without the king had no claim upon their allegiance. If this were a correct representation, Harris had anticipated by an hundred years one of the chief doctrines of the American Revolution. Harris was a "Kingsman," as were most of the Quakers. They sympathized with Harris, who had the wisdom to cultivate their friendship, and who had their support in future controversies with Williams. The warrant against Harris shows that the chief motive for the prosecution was, his being a "Kingsman," as were Coddington, Gorton and most others of that day, who saw in Cromwell only the supporter of Massachusetts and her principles. (See *Fox's New England's Firebrand Quenched*, p. 282; Vol. I. *Bartlett's R. I. Col. Records*, p. 361.)

It is impossible to believe that Harris (See *Arnold's Hist. of R. I.*, Vol. I., pp. 362, 363) cherished designs subversive of property and magistracy. His private estate was the largest in Providence, and he was ever seeking to add to its value. In his public acts he was always a supporter of law and organization. The charge of turbulence and anarchy is inconsistent with the whole tenor of his life. The ingeniously ambiguous statement of the court concerning what might be deemed treason in England, may be deemed a censure of the military oligarchy which then bore rule, and which made any thing treason at its will. Their declaration might be useful to the judges if the time should come when the times should change in favor of the Kingsmen. The General Court of Trials was not swayed by the passions of the "towne streete." They needed to be on good terms with Cromwell while his day lasted, but like many others they saw that it was drawing to an end and they bade him farewell without regret. [He died 1658.]

If there were any sense of humor among the spectators of the proceedings against Harris it must have been a grotesque exhibition when the chief court of a community which tolerated greater latitude of opinion than any other in the world, engaged in trying one of the chief citizens for high treason in "bowing the Scriptures."

(Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 112; p. 121.) In 1658, the Proprietors had learned that they had nothing to fear from the small landholders. At the town meeting, May 15th, Mr. Olney (one of the chief Proprietors) being moderator, it was "ordered that all those that enjoy lands in the *jurisdiction* [not merely within the bounds] of this town are freemen." This confirmed the right of suffrage to those who had made purchases beyond Williams's Indian line, and indirectly overruled and rejected one of the most important claims in Dexter's "Sovereign Plaister." The Proprietors let the small purchasers understand that they stood in no awe of them. October 27, 1659. "For as much as there hath been a complaint this day, by some of the inhabitants against John Clawson, for making use of the common* (he was a "twenty-five acre man"), it is therefore ordered by this present court that the Deputies or Deputy of the Town, shall forthwith forewarn the said John Clawson to forbear in any wise to make use of *any* of the common." (Early Records of Providence, p. 126.) This was an exercise of discipline without law, over one of the less wealthy freemen. It was both summary and severe. If it were enforced, Clawson and his household would have been deprived of his fuel and fencing material and of many household supplies. At a later day, when the town offered bounties for the heads of wolves and foxes, the small freeholders and their boys, who knew the haunts of wild animals, were thus officially invited into the Proprietors' woodlands. Once admitted they were not easily dislodged and remained there for their own purposes and during their own pleasure. Swine and goats were still turned upon the common to get their living in their own way. As times went on the evil did not decrease and we shall see farther unavailing attempts to abate it.

The harsh invectives against obnoxious Proprietors now so frequent in the Town Meetings and at the Town Mill,

*In many English manors there was a custom that a commoner who had put more cattle on the common than his right proportion, might be debarred from commoning for a limited time, and should pay a reasonable fine. But Clawson was a freeholder and a tenant in common, and Providence was not a manor, and had no commoners in the English sense of the word.

stirred up the passions of those who were dissatisfied with the land titles. These were wont to show their anger by means wholly unjustifiable.

(Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. III.) Providence, 27th of the 2d month, 1658. "It is *ordered* that if any person or persons shall from this time forward, be so bold and hardy as to pluck up or break down any bound stake, or cut down any tree which is the bounds of any man's lands or between neighbour and neighbour, the said party so offending being complained of to the Town Deputies, or convicted by two witnesses, shall pay or forfeit to this Towne, the sum of twenty shillings for every stake, stone, tree or bound, and the same to be taken away, or distrained of, by the constable of the said Towne, by a warrant from any two of the three magistrates' hands, or else whoever doth neglect the same, either not giving or serving, the Distress of either Deputy, General Assistant or Constable, shall pay unto the Towne Treasury, the said money aforesaid."

It seems to have been difficult to enforce this law for the protection of the Proprietors' estates. Popular sympathy was rather with their opponents.

During twenty years the Proprietors had urged Williams to give them a title more satisfactory or intelligible than the "Initial Deed," and he had steadily refused. He had always disapproved what he deemed their misuse of his purchase from the Indians, and would have no farther dealings with the authors of it. With individuals among them, as Chad Brown, &c., he had always maintained friendly relations; but towards the society and its leaders his hostility was uniform and constant. They now abandoned hope of any aid from him, and determined to supply any defects in their title by ascending to its source. The Indians had now become familiar with English spirits and gew-gaws, and were ready to procure them by parting with the lands which they had held so tenaciously twenty years before. In 1659, the successors of Canonicus gave deeds of confirmation to the Proprietors, such as they had long sought in vain. [These deeds may be read at large in Vol. I., Bartlett's Col. Records, pp. 35-38, and in Staples's Annals.] It is only needful to say of them, that they confirm the "Initial Deed" in the sense in

which the Proprietors had always construed it. They convey — to a line twenty miles west of Fox's hill — both lands and rights of pasture. The grantors were the degenerate heirs of Canonicus and Miantonomo, and were ready to listen to any proposals from Rhode Island or Massachusetts, as their wants or their vices might prompt them. Williams always spoke contemptuously of these confirmation deeds, but for a reason which stirred up the wrath of Thomas Olney and the Town Meeting, and which, if true, would have been most injurious to the whole colony. It was that the Indians had subjected themselves to Massachusetts, and had no longer any tribal lands to convey* (See Williams's letter about Wayunkeke to the Town of Providence, and Rider's Tract No. 14, p. 32, letter to John Whipple.)

27th 8th mo., 1660. "The confirmation deeds never received the scrutiny of any royal commissioners or court of law. Had they undergone it they might have raised troublesome questions about the right of the sachems to dispose of their tribal lands, without the consent of their people. In doing this even Canonicus had been cautious and restrained. As deeds of conveyance, these deeds do not seem to have added greatly to the security of the proprietary title. They may have had some effect in preventing farther tampering with the Rhode Island Indian by the agents of Massachusetts, and by discouraging the attacks of freeholders of Providence who were unable to judge of their validity and who thus overestimated their value. When they had served these purpose they were quietly laid away in the Proprietors' archives and were never heard of more.†

*In a MS. letter, Harris says that Williams bought the islands of Prudence, Patience and Hope from Canonicus and Miantonomo, which was wholly inconsistent with his subsequent claim, that the sachems had no power to sell lands. Coddington in like manner bought Newport. Massachusetts treated with him, and Miantonomo granted to Benedict Arnold, lands south of the Pawtuxet River, before William Arnold had induced Pomham and Soconoco to submit to the English.

†Both the Proprietors and the twenty-five acre men, in their proportion (one-fourth), were assessed for the money paid to the sachems for their deeds of confirmation. As they had gained a quarter share in the profits, so also they assumed a quarter part of the liabilities of the proprietary shares. (See Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 127.)

(The foregoing paper by Henry C. Dorr, to be continued.)



Henry L. Greene

FAC-SIMILE OF THE SIGNATURES OF THE
SETTLERS OF THE TOWN OF WARWICK, R. I.
WITH HISTORICAL SKETCHES APPER-
TAINING THERETO.

BY HENRY LEHRÉ GREENE.

Above is the title of a Paper read before the Rhode Island Historical Society, October 5, 1875. A copy of this paper was then deposited in the cabinet, in compliance with a special request of the society, and this copy is reproduced here for the benefit of a wide circle of readers.

Mr. Henry L. Greene is now the sole survivor not only of the original firm of S. H. Greene & Sons, but of the manufacturers in this vicinity in 1838.

The engraver having failed to reproduce a note that appears over the first page of the original list, the note is here inserted as follows: "This leafe was torne out by order of y^e towne this 29th of June 1667-it being y^e submition to y^e Stat of England with out. y^e Kings magisty it being y^e 13th page."

On the 6th of October, 1874, the Hon. Simon Henry Greene, father of Henry Lehré Greene, read a paper before this society, entitled, "A brief Sketch of a Branch of the Greene family, with a notice of the Life and Character of the late John L. Hughes." It is hoped that space will soon be found for this sketch in the Quarterly, with his engraved likeness.

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 John Greene
 James Greene
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 Jo. X. Lipet
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Christopher Gullbankie
 John Brown Junior
 Robert Westcott
 John Townsend
 Peter W. Baycott

Fac-simile of the signatures of the First Settlers of Warwick, R. I. Copied from Warwick Records First Book, by Henry L. Greene.

14

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A DESCRIPTION OF THE AUTOGRAPHS OF THE FOUNDERS OF
THE TOWN OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, AS DELINEATED
IN THE ACCOMPANYING FAC-SIMILE, COPIED FROM THE
FIRST VOLUME OF WARWICK RECORDS, BY HENRY L.
GREENE.

Every human being has a history. Many are unwritten, nevertheless the subjects of them are as essential to the world's progress as those whom the laudatory trumpet of fame has made immortal in the memories of men. The former play as important parts as the latter, in establishing new governments, in creating new families, in developing new principles, or spreading new revelations of truth.

It is a law of divine order that all, who are in a state to receive and appropriate good and truth, should progress to better, wiser, more useful and more perfect states. Redeemed from the darkness of ignorance, they emerge into light: that light, which truth, in all its forms, is continually sending forth on every side; into every nook and corner of the labyrinth of the human mind.

As man, from some earthly standpoint, gazes upon the azure dome, emblazoned with countless brilliant stars, over-arching glorious hills, hallowed with tinted splendor and crowned with trees of majesty; or into teeming valleys carpeted with verdure, and made lovely with the presence of flowers: so in all its windings, even the most trivial, there are openings whence the soul may behold with reverential eyes, revealed truths pointing the way to spheres of usefulness, happiness and wisdom. While in such a state as this, the mind of man is elevated far above the consideration of self-interest, and is enabled to realize the importance of the contest between self-love and the higher law. It sees that genuine freedom is inseparable from truth, and yearns for an opportunity to exercise that freedom. The mind that is so enlightened, severs ties of home and kindred, and seeks a new abiding place where it is not bound by laws, or principles to which it can no longer yield obedience.

The germ of civil and religious liberty implanted in the minds of our forefathers shot forth and grew until larger

fields and more light were required for its ripening. It could not flourish in the noxious sphere of moral restraint, and kingly and priestly self-love of the Old World. A new earth was required for its development, hence Divine Providence led the way to this Canaan of the West.

Among the records of the passing years, every volume or writing, that can shed even a ray of light into the history of the lives and deeds of men, is more and more valuable in proportion to its truthfulness and its completeness. Not one can be written but will contain *something of interest, something of value* to the future reader, although in the generations far remote from him who pens it. The records of the deeds of men are reflexes of their characters; he who desires may thence derive warning from their errors or profit by their good examples. There is nothing ever said or done, but that is interwoven in some manner into the grand fabric of human society.

The simple fac-simile that I present of an entry and the signatures of the founders of the town of Warwick, Rhode Island, will, perhaps, possess some interest in the minds of those who love all that pertains to our history; none the less that they were written at a time when the very atmosphere was pregnant with those ideas of civil liberty which culminated in political reforms in the mother country, and eventuated in the separation from her of the American colony.

Although it was not until 1648 that the English Parliament was purged by Colonel Pride, acting under orders of Oliver Cromwell, and the admitted members, declaring themselves "governors of the kingdom," had accomplished the abrogation of the treaty with Charles I., abolished the house of peers, and established the Commonwealth of England, we learn from the *first* entry in the Warwick Records, that the settlers of the town, by a solemn act, attested by their signatures, had given their submission to the new government as early as the 23d of January, 1648. Indeed, we are led from this circumstance to infer that, on the news of the surrender of the king, by the Scots, to the English commissioners in 1647, following the loss of the last stronghold of the Cavaliers in the preceding year, the men of our town of Warwick

foresaw the conclusion of such mighty political throes and that a commonwealth would be the successor of the kingdom. It does not, moreover, appear from the fragments that are left of "ye act of submition" that the *word* commonwealth was used in it anywhere, and this supposition is confirmed by the wording of the order of the town, which says, that it was the "submition to ye Stat (e) of England without 'ye Kings magisty.'" But on another page of the records is an engagement or affirmation as follows: "March 8, 1652. "I doe declare and promise that I will bee true and faithful "to the Commonwealth of England, as it is now established "without a kinge, or house of lords."

This is dated, as will be observed, *four years* later than the first record.

In 1660, when Charles II. ascended the throne of England, a special meeting of the Assembly was held in October, in Warwick, and "the king formally proclaimed with military honors." The act of submission to the Commonwealth of England, however, was not ordered to be torn out from the ancient record until the 29th June, 1667.

Let us now turn to the fac-simile, which represents the two *first* pages of records in the venerable book, although they are *numbered* 13 and 14 ; and decipher the names, many of which are written in so quaint a style as to perplex the modern reader.

1st. Taking them in order we have *first*, John Smith. He was one of the leading minds of the colony, filling the office of assistant on more than one occasion, and was once president of the Court of Commissioners. An inventory of his property, taken after his death, exhibits a value of about \$5,000, according to our money ; but a large sum for the time in which he lived.

2d. Samuel Gorton, "The original thinker, courageous reformer and zealous preacher," needs no further introduction to the historian.

3d. John Greene. He left in the year 1635, Salisbury, Wiltshire, England, and arrived in Boston, Massachusetts colony, on 3d June, 1635.* His independent spirit resisted

*In the ship James, 300 tons burthen, William Cooper, Master. From Boston, he went to Salem.

the Puritanic discipline of that colony, and he soon sought the congenial society of Roger Williams, with whom, as well as others, he became a proprietor in the Providence settlement in 1638. In October, 1642, he became possessed by deed from Miantonomi, of a large tract of land which is still known by its original name of Occupassatoixet. Here he erected a substantial frame house, yet standing, and occupied by the heirs of the late Governor John Brown Francis. A band of kindred spirits, among them his friend and fellow-voyager from England, Samuel Gorton, soon gathered around Greene and formed the settlement at Shawomet, afterwards called Warwick. The town was chartered March 14, 1648. He was a man full of practical wisdom and far-seeing sagacity, hence was respected as a trustworthy guide by his townsmen and fellow-colonists, who conferred upon him the highest honors.

The Massachusetts colonists, far from following the precepts of kindness and good-will, and the principles of "soul liberty," which they emigrated to America professedly to establish and enjoy, were filled with hatred towards the independent little colony of Providence Plantations. Greene and others defied their authority, were overcome by a superior force (forty soldiers against ten available men of the Warwick settlers), their farms despoiled and themselves carried to Boston, except Greene and his son, who fled during the siege of the house in which the brave little band defended themselves. For the particulars of this affair, as well as for many other interesting incidents in the life of this remarkable man, I would refer the reader to Arnold's excellent History of Rhode Island, to which I am partly indebted for the historic matter in these sketches.

The father of John Greene was named Richard Greene. John was born February 9, 1596-7, and, as appears in a church register in Dorsetshire, England, was married November 4, 1619, to Joane Tattersall. In this entry he is styled "Chirurgurgeon," the ancient and now obsolete term used for surgeon.

The register of St. Thomas Church, Salisbury, England, contains entries of the baptism of their children as follows :

John Greene,	August 15, 1620.
Peter “	March 10, 1621-22.
James “	June 21, 1626.
Thomas “	June 4, 1628.
Joane “	October 3, 1630.
Mary “	May 19, 1633.

Gorton says in “Simplicities Defence,” page 102, “that
 “the nature of this answer of the Massachusetts Commision-
 “ers . . . affected our wives and children, forcing them
 “to betake themselves into the woods among the Indians,
 “suffering such hardships as occasioned the death of divers
 “of them, as the wife of John Greene, as also the wife of
 “Robert Potter, September 28, 1643.”

Mr. Greene's second wife was *Else Daniels* of Providence, and his third wife was named *Phillip* . . . of London, England. He died between December 28, 1658, and January 7, 1659. His will was signed December 28, 1658, and proved on the latter date.

4th. *John Wickes*. He also figures largely in the administration of both colonial and town affairs, being elected to fill offices of honor and trust, and was one of the first town moderators. One of the earliest proselytes of Gorton, he was often found upholding the latter in his warfare against his theological and political enemies, consequently suffered much persecution on this account. His kindly disposition sought and obtained, for a season, the friendship of the Indians, but that treacherous race inhumanly repaid his generosity by beheading him one evening in 1675, as he was returning home from taking care of his cows.

5th. *John Warner*. The first town clerk of Warwick. He came from England, August 20, 1637 ; was at one time an inhabitant of Providence and had one of “the home lots” about where the *Whatcheer Building* now stands. One of the original twelve purchasers of *Shawomet* (or *Warwick*), clerk of the General Assembly, March 14, 1648, when the charter incorporating the town of *Warwick* was granted, and

after serving the town as its clerk, member of the town council, deputy and assistant in the colonial assembly ; he possessed great abilities, but appears to have had an irascible disposition, which caused him to say and do many obnoxious things, subjecting him to the mortification of a public reprimand on more than one occasion.

July 17, 1652. He conveyed all his property to the town of Providence in trust for the use and support of his infant daughter. An intended voyage to England is cited in the deed as the reason for the conveyance. In 1655, the town of Providence committed the care and custody of this child to her grandfather, Ezekiel Holliman.

John Warner married Priscilla, daughter of Ezekiel and Susannah (Oxton or Fox) Holliman. Their children were John, Susan, Mary and Rachal. Rachal was married to Abel Potter, November 16, 1669, by Captain John Greene, at Mr. James Greene's house in Warwick. There is a tradition that all these children but Rachal, who was an infant at the time, were carried to England. In 1658, Ezekiel Holliman sent for John, his grandson, to come to America and inherit his estate. This lad, being exactly 14 years old, was bound an apprentice to William Field for seven years from his birthday, August 1, 1659.

6th. Stukley Westcott. A thrifty well-to-do farmer, one of the thirteen proprietors of Providence and general assistant for Warwick in 1653.

7th. Richard Carder. He was one of the town clerks, was chosen June 6, 1664, and seems to have been much esteemed. His systematic turn of mind is evinced in the marginal references he introduced into the records, and in the precise statement he caused to be made of all his possessions.

8th, 9th and 10th are the names of Richard Harkett, John More and Christopher Helme.

11th. Ezekiell Hollyman. Another of the original proprietors of Providence, and founders of the Baptist Church in America. The name of Hollyman is extinct in Rhode Island, excepting so far as it is connected with those of his daughters' descendants. One daughter married John Warner, and Abel Potter married their daughter. One of Potter's de-

scendants was the late Lieutenant Holliman Potter, the father of the present sheriff, Roger Williams Potter. The latter had a brother Ezekiel Holliman Potter, who died many years ago in the South.* A great grandson of Lieut. Holliman Potter is named John Holliman Spalding, now residing in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Hollyman's name appears often in the records as one of the principal officers of the town.

12th. Henry Townsend. After some years residence in Warwick, he removed to Oyster Bay, Long Island, accompanied by his brother John; these two having sold their Warwick property to their brother Richard and his two daughters, Dinah and Leah.

13th. Walter Coniegrau, is supposed to have been a Dutchman. Probably from Monadoes, as New York was sometimes called at that time.

Ezekiel Holliman was born at Tring, near Hertford, England, and married for his first wife, Susannah, daughter of John Oxton (or Fox), of Stanmore, Middlesex County, England. She evidently died in the mother country, and Priscilla, who was married to John Warner, is the only child known by name. John Geraerdy, however, married into E. Holliman's family. (See Arnold's History of Rhode Island, Vol. I., p. 241.) Mr. Holliman's second wife was Mary, widow of Isaac Sweet, whom he married about the year 1638. Mrs. Holliman was cast out of Salem church for carrying out the opinions of her husband.

In Benedict's "History of the Baptists," first volume, page 473, it is stated, that Ezekiel Holliman baptized Roger Williams in 1638-39, and then Mr. Williams baptized him and ten others.

Mr. Holliman was a member of the first town council of Warwick, August 8, 1642, which consisted of the following persons: John Greene, Ezekiel Holliman, John Warner, Rufus Barton, Randall Holden. While he was a member of the House of Deputies, the will of John Greene, surgeon, was brought before him for probate, in 1659; but he did not long

*A grandson of Lieut. H. Potter is named John Holliman Potter, now of Pawtucket, R. I.

survive his friend and fellow-pioneer, for he, too, died in the same year.

The council of Warwick met on the 27th September, "1659, concerning the estate of E. Holliman, they having "prepared a will."

"October 5, (1659). It is ordered by the council that two "of their number, Mr. John Wickes and John Greene, go "unto Mrs. Mary Holliman and demand if she will accept to "be executrix of said will. She sent in her acceptance."

14th. Walter Todd. A moderator of the assembly in 1654, and several times elected town treasurer.

15th. Richard Townsend. The brother of John and Henry.

16th, 17th and 18th. Peter Greene, James Greene, Thomas Greene. These are the sons of John Greene, senior.

Thomas Greene died June 5, 1717, at the age of 87 years. His wife, Elizabeth (Barton) Greene, died August 20, 1693. They lived in the stone castle, so called, which Thomas Greene purchased in 1660 of James Sweet, the husband of his sister, Mary Greene.

Peter died without issue. From James and Thomas sprang the Potowomut Greenses. General Nathanael Greene was a descendant of James.

The Potowomut lands were purchased by the Warwick proprietors of Turcomanans, a sachem of the Narragansetts, July 13, 1654, for about £10, and a new coat to be given him annually. A condition of the deed was, that "the said Turcomanans was not to *sell again* the said lands, without applying to the said purchasers; by which it would seem that our ancestors had so soon learned how little binding was the word or "*deed*" of an Indian.

James Greene succeeded his brother John as town clerk, and held the office for quite a length of time, serving from 1661 to 1664.

Thomas Greene's possessions in Potowomut were inherited by his son Thomas, who was drowned in Coweset Bay, during a storm, while on his return home from Old Warwick. The latter (Thomas) was the father of "King" Richard Greene, so called from his grand style of living.

19th. Thomas Thorniecraft.

20th. John Lipet. He is the ancestor of the Lippitts of Cranston and Providence. He had a son John Lipet, junior, who sold land and executed a deed of it, "*by consent* of his father," so the instrument itself says.

21st and 22d, are John Cooke and Christopher Onthanke.

23d. John Greene, junior. This is the autograph of those men who stand out in bold relief from the mists of the old records. He inherited from his father those sterling qualities of mind which made him one of the foremost men, not only of the town, but of the colony. He was the second town clerk, succeeding John Warner, June 3, 1650, and serving until June 4, 1660, excepting 1656 and 1657, when the office was filled by Henry Reddocke. He followed his father's career as a public man, in colonial affairs, and was elected to different offices in succession, until he rose to the important station of deputy-governor of the colony. Mr. Greene's chirography, in the ancient record, is a model of neatness, elegance and legibility, while his language is simple and explicit; a marked contrast to his brother James, who revelled in verbiage and bad spelling. His signature here does not do him justice, in respect to good execution, although it has the merit of being easily read. Requiring from others that which was his due, with exactness, he was equally prompt to deal justly with every one. Generosity may not have been spontaneous with him, but he was capable of and performed noble deeds. The senior Mr. Greene, during his lifetime, gave property to his younger sons for their *use*, which by the law of primogeniture became his son John's after his father's death; but this son, with instinctive justice, voluntarily gave to each a quitclaim deed, conveying to them that property.

He inherited the Occupassatoixet estate from his father, but was obliged to obtain a new deed from Sucquans, alias Mossup (the successor of Miantonomi), dated June 16, 1662, as the Indians never deeded "to heirs, executors and assigns" of the original purchaser, but only conveyed a life interest. His landed estate was very large, embracing even the territory now, as then, known as Natick; also the land now occupied by the Clyde Works and vicinity, as appears from an old

"plat of Natick farms." The locality last named was called "Wales" in 1700, after the name of its possessor at that period. John Greene, junior, together with all his brothers and his sisters Mary and Joane, was born in England. He died in 1708, November 27, at the age of 89.

24th. Robert Westcott was a son of Stukley Westcott.

25th. John Townsend was a brother of Henry.

26th. Peter Buzecott. He was a blacksmith, therefore one of the most useful men in the infant colony. But Peter not only literally burned his fingers with his red-hot irons, but did so figuratively in meddling with his neighbors concerns; for many actions for slander were brought against him, as the ancient records attest. His own words prove his calling, for he styles himself "blacksmith," in a deed given by him November 5, 1654.

27th. The first name on the 14th page of the record is incomplete through the tearing of the leaf, it being written on the back of "ye act of submition," but is John Throckmorton, when complete. He was one of the thirteen original proprietors of Providence.

I am unable to supply the letters wanting to complete the second name on this (14th) page.

28th. Amos Westcott. He was a son of Stukley and brother of Robert Westcott. Incidental mention is made of him at the close of these sketches.

29th. Randall Houldon. This man figures largely in the early history of the town and colony. Evidently possessing a sound mind, excellent judgment, and great executive ability, he was selected often to perform important duties. A portion of the land he purchased of the Indians is now owned by his descendant, John Holden, Esq., of Old Warwick.

30th. John Sweete. This was the miller of the town. In 1654, a compact was entered into between him and the town for the repair and occupancy of the town's mill.

31st. Jan Geraerdy, elsewhere in the records styled *John* Geraerdy. A Dutch emigrant. He married a daughter of Ezekiel Hollyman, and at the time of his brother-in-law's (John Warner) visit to England, about the year 1651, seems to have acted as guardian of his daughter. Warner was prob-

ably in unhappy relations with his wife as early as this period, for he conveyed his property to his infant daughter and confided her to the care of his friends on the eve of his departure to the mother country. He (Warner) was divorced from his wife, June 26, 1683.

32d. Henry Reddocke. He bore an active part in the government of the town; among other offices, filling that of town clerk in 1656 and 1657.

33d. Henry Knowles. Of this person no special mention is made in the record.

34th. John ^{I S}_{his mark,} Smith. Literally one of the *builders* of the town, being a *mason*, as proved by an entry dated June 2, 1656.

35th. Tomos Relf. Doubtless the ancestor of the present Ralphs, of Coventry and Scituate.

36th. Thomas Bradley. He appears in history as a farmer. An ancient indenture records that the town bound to him, as an apprentice or servant, a girl, whom her parents had abandoned.

37th. Anthony Low. This was a notable man in public affairs. He settled upon land which had remained in the ownership of his descendants until after the death of the late Captain Samuel Low, when it was sold out of the family. Captain Samuel Low was the great-great-grandson of Anthony Low, and was over 90 years old when he died. Anthony Low was licensed by the town to keep "an ordinary" for two years, commencing 31st October, 1659; one of the conditions being, that "he should keep two beds besides the *one* he already "hath for strangers;" but his license was revoked April 4, 1660, because he did not comply with the conditions.

38th. Matthias Harvey. Also a useful man in the government of the town. He was elected town clerk to succeed John Greene, junior, June 9, 1658, but declined to serve, and Mr. Greene was reelected for that year. Harvey was again elected June 4, 1660, and served one year.

39th. John Rodgers. No particular mention is made of him in the records.

40th. Robert Kent. The same may be said of this man.

41st. Thomas Scranton. He had descendants who emi-

grated to Connecticut and thence to Pennsylvania, it is said. General Scranton of Washington County, in this State, was probably a descendant of Thomas Scranton.

42 to 48. John Bennett, Edward Andrews, William Baker, Thomas Taylor, Tomas Knox, William Ward and Jonathan West, are the names following in regular order after Scranton's.

49th. The last signature is that of Edmund Calverley. Although placed with the other names in the fac-simile, it was not *originally* signed with them, and was *copied* from the 66th page of the ancient record, being under the following entry: "Memorandum, that forasmuch as there is no room in ye 14th page of this Towne book for Edmund Calverley to subscribe to that Grand Order of ye Towne, therefore I have hereunto subscribed my naime in obedience to ye said order maid.—Ye 23'd January, 1648. Edmund Calverley.

50th. "Also I, Luke Bromley doe as Mr. Edm^r. Calverley hath done in pursuance of ye fores'd order.

Luke B Bromley."
his mark.

Edmund Calverley, formerly an innkeeper in London, England, performed valuable and difficult services for his fellow-colonists. He was appointed constable in 1663, and town clerk, June 9, 1665, succeeding Richard Carder, and held both offices a long time. The office of constable at this period was a highly important one, requiring in the incumbent the quality of courage, blended with great firmness and unusual discretion. It was during his term of service that the roused blood-thirsty nature of the Indians impelled them to commit those cruel acts so infamous in the annals of that race. His duties led him directly in contact with the Indians. He was sent with a warrant issued by Sir Robert Carr, Royal Commissioner, against Pomham and his followers, on the 6th and 7th of February, 1667, by which "they, ye said Indians were by vertue of the warrant, warned to depart, and come noe moor one the Town's land to plant or inhabit,—the Constable Mr. Edmund Caverley, with his asosiats, delivering them a trew copie of his honnor's warrant, but ye said

"Indeans did peremptoryly aver that they would take no notice thereof ; some of them throwing the (ye) copie away, and about forty Indians surrounded ye Constable and his asosiats, that he took to be witnesses of ye delivery of the writing, and did stop some of them from coming away, threatening that they would carry the said copie back againe, and did behave themselves very ryotously, and in a scornfull manner did deny ye King's authority represented in ye Constable, when he charged them to keep the King's peace, and not to adhear to any that did deny obeydunce thereunto. Pomham and his company being at the same tyme amongst them, only Awashhooke, ther pretended sachime, did command them to let us goe, but he said that Capt: Thomas Willett had taken order with Capt: John Greene allready about ye matter in wrighting, which writing was this day read by Capt. Greene, in whose hands it is, and ocasione a loving letter to be sent to Capt: Thomas Willett, and delivered by ye hand of Edmund Caverley, Towne Clerke, in ye presence of Capt: John Greene, on the 14th day of this instant February, they being both ordered by ye Towne to atend Capt: Willett to know his answer, who did tell ye Towne's agents that he would answer ye Towne, in one of the too (two) desires in their letter, a copie whereof is fyled among ye records of ye Towne.

"The names of ye persons that was with the Constable, when ye copies of Sir Robert Carr's warrant was delivered, was Samuel Gorton, Junior, Amos Westcott, Edward Marshall, and William Moor, on Valentine's day."

The place where the events occurred, as described in this extract from the records, was then, and is now, called Nausauket, near Apponaug in Warwick. These and similar acts of resistance to the English authority over lands which the Indians had sold to the former, were precursors of the horrible warfare which ensued a few years later. Calverley spent his last days in Portsmouth, on the island of Rhode Island. With his name I close these imperfect sketches of the fathers of the town.

Many of these names have become obliterated from the memories of their successors ; and how few know the names,

much less the histories, of their ancestors! How impressive a lesson does this teach us of the evanescence of earthly fame, of the fleeting light of earthly glory!

"Man is a recipient of good and truth," and so far as his actions are governed by their influence, so far he progresses towards a more perfect state. But it is easier for him to rest satisfied with a *little* good performed, than to *continue* in the way of well-doing. Conscience urges him on, but self-love cries, "halt!" The way is beset with difficulties and temptations; nevertheless the voice of duty entreats him to go forward. Strong and courageous must he be who can make any progress in the midst of this conflict.

When we consider that our fathers endured such internal contests, we can make due allowance for the heart-burnings, bickerings and contentions that we find recorded against them in the old, half-worn-out volume of their public acts. When even Samuel Gorton, the warm-hearted, zealous preacher, sues a neighbor for slander, we know that the imperfect knowledge of spiritual things at that time fell far short of enlightening the people in what love to the neighbor really consisted. The way, however, was being prepared for a new order of things; the desert of their minds, like the wilderness which they inhabited, was to be ploughed with truth, cultivated with good, and planted with useful thoughts, which were to develop in a moral and political system, whose far-reaching branches were to overshadow and protect the mightiest nation the world had yet seen.

Richard Grinnell ² (Daniel ² , Matthew ¹). B 1675. M 1704, May 25. D 1725, July 1. Little Compton, R. I. Patience Emery ² (James ¹). B 1681. D 1749, Mar. 10.	John Sanford ² (John ² , John ¹). B 1672, June. 18. M D Little Compton, R. I.	John Taylor ² (Robert ¹). B 1657, June. M D 1747, June 9. Little Compton, R. I. Abigail B D 1720, Sept. 16.	Samuel Wilbur ² (William ¹). B M D 1740. Little Compton, R. I. Mary Potter ² (Nathaniel ² , Nathaniel ¹). B B D
George Grinnell. B 1705, Jan. 25. M 1726, Feb. D 1768. Little Compton, R. I.	Mercy Sanford. B 1704, Jan. 19. D	John Taylor. B 1694, Jan. 7. M (2) 1719, Dec. 29. D 1762, June. Little Compton, R. I.	Joanna Wilbur. B 1700, June 8. D
Aaron Grinnell. B 1728, June 4. M (2) 1758, Dec. 31. D Little Compton, R. I.		Margaret Taylor. B 1727, April 20. D	

PETER GRINNELL.

Born 1764, June 4. Died 1836, Sept. 13.

Merchant, Providence, R. I.

Samuel Wilbur ² (William ¹). B M D 1740. Little Compton, R. I. Mary Potter ³ (Nathaniel ² , Nathaniel ¹). B D		Thomas Burgess ³ (Thomas ² , Thomas ¹). B 1668. M D 1743, July 1. Little Compton, R. I. Esther Richmond ³ (Edward ² , John ¹). B 1669. D 1706, Nov. 12.		John Hoxie ² (Lodowick ¹). B 1677, March. M D 1767.		Mary Hull ⁴ (Joseph ³ , Tristram ² , Joseph ¹). B D		Peter Davis. B 1680, May 1. M D 1776, Feb. 29. Dover, Eng.-Boston, Mass.-Westerly, R. I. Mary. B D	
William Wilbur. B 1695, Jan. 6. M 1717, June 20. D 1774, Sept. Little Compton, R. I.		Esther Burgess. B D		Solomon Hoxie. B 1710, Dec. M 1734, July 25. D 1781, March 23. Richmond, R. I.		Mary Davis. B 1706, Oct. 5. D 1797, March 18.			
Thomas Wilbur. B 1718, May 1. M (2) 1761, July 27. D 1796, Aug. 3. Hopkinton, R. I.				Mary Hoxie. B 1736, Sept. 9. D 1827, Aug. 4.					

JOHN WILBUR.

Born 1774, July 17. Died 1856, May 1.
Quaker Preacher.

TILLINGHAST NOTES.

Joseph Tillinghast ² (Pardon ¹), of Providence and Newport, R. I., was born 1677, August 11, and died 1763, December 1. He married (1st) Freelove Stafford, (2d) Mary Hendron, widow (*née* Paris). His last wife was born 1700, and died 1765, May 16. He and his last wife were buried in Newport Cemetery. He left a will, of which only the fact of probate seems to have survived the ravages of Revolution, when Newport records were partially destroyed. The following list is believed to include nearly all of his children, and to be correct thus far.

1 Lydia m. Job Almy, 1717, July 18.

2 Joseph, b. 1703, m. (1) Lydia Simmons, 1723, April 4 ; m. (2) Mary Cranston, 1760, Oct. 9. He also filed intentions of marriage to Mercy Howland, 1722, Aug. 6 ; but if they married, she must have died soon. He and his wife Lydia were buried in Newport Cemetery. She was born 1702, died 1760, June 25. He died 1779, Feb. 10. His will of 1776 mentions wife Mary, daughter Lydia (m. John Stratton, 1788, April 3), son Stukeley (b. 1767), and grandson John Bryer (perhaps son of Elias Bryer, who m. Mary Tillinghast, 1750, Dec. 6). He was a merchant at Newport, like his father before him.

3 Freelove.

4 Anna, b. 1709, June 25, m. Robert Gardiner.

5 Samuel, b. 1711, Oct. 8, m. (1) Deborah or Ann Greene ; m. (2) Hannah ———. He died 1787. Administration to Nicholas Paris Tillinghast, of Newport. Children : Samuel, Nicholas Paris, b. 1742, Jan. 21, Daniel, Mary, Rebecca, Thomas b. 1756, Aug. 16 (died young), and perhaps others. He lived near Fulling Mill Cove (Apponaug), Warwick, where his father bought land in 1751. His first wife died 1750, Dec. 25, and was buried at Newport.

- 6 Stukeley, b. 1716, d. 1740, Sept. 27.
- 7 Elizabeth m. Matthew Cozzens, 1754, Oct. 17.
- 8 Mary, b. 1725, March, d. 1730, June 2.
- 9 Nicholas, b. 1726, May 26, m. (1) Susan Dyer; m. (2) Joanna Jenckes, 1754, Sept. 26; m. (3) Ruth Edwards (*nee* Phillips), 1762, Feb. 11. Children: Daniel, 1755, Oct. 25, Paris Jenckes, 1757, Mar. 19, Susanna, 1763, July 9, Joseph, 1765, Feb. 10, Nicholas, 1767, Jan. 24, Joanna, 1768, Nov. 27, William, 1770, July 29. He was town clerk, &c. at Providence and moved to Taunton, Mass., in later years, and died there 1797, Feb.
- 10 Henry, b. 1727, Aug. —, d. 1739, May 31 (Birth from tombstone; not always sure guide).
- 11 Sarah, b. 1728, Feb. 26, m. Lemuel Wyatt, 1747, Oct. 2 (Her birth, but not her parentage, from old family bible).
- 12 Daniel, b. 1732, June 2, m. (1) Hannah Gibbs, 1752, Dec. 14; m. (2) Lydia Hopkins, 1763, June 5. Children: Mary, 1753, Dec. 7, Amey, 1755, Oct. 5, Henry, 1757, June 6, Daniel, 1758, Dec. 29, Robert Gibbs, 1760, Sept. 10, Hannah, 1762, May 26, George, 1764, Nov. 10, John, 1766, Jan. 2, Stephen, 1768, Sept. 17, Sarah Scott, 1771, April 2, Silvanus, 1772, July 19. His life was chiefly spent at Providence, where he was colonel of artillery company, &c. He died at Uxbridge, Mass., 1806, Sept. 18.
- 13 Henry m. Rebecca —, 1764, Aug. 13.
- 14 Amey m. Thomas Eyres, 1759, July 12.

Additions and corrections desired to this list of Joseph's children.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND CULLINGS.

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Is unquestionably the foremost institution of its kind in the United States. It early selected its sphere of action and it has moved right forward in its special line of labor. By means of its publications, its library and its many well-directed efforts, it has greatly facilitated the study of family history in this country, and it has thus come to be regarded as headquarters for genealogical work of the highest order. Its efforts to enable Mr. Henry F. Waters to make genealogical gleanings from the records of England reflect upon it great credit. Its forty-nine volumes of the Genealogical Register, are among the choicest works of reference in this library. Its five large, well-printed and well-bound 8vo volumes of memorial biography are of decided interest and value. Its annual "Proceedings," from 1871 to 1896, give us a good idea of its work and progress during more than a quarter of a century. Its "Proceedings of the January meeting, 1896," have just come to hand. It gives us a very favorable view of the condition and prospects of the society. It is a well-organized and well-officered institution. Its president, the Hon. William Claflin, LL.D., of the city of Newton, is sustained by six vice-presidents who represent respectively the six New England States. Seventy-eight persons became members of the society during the year 1895. Thirty-five necrological notices are given in this issue.

During the last year, the rooms of the society were greatly enlarged and several important improvements were made. While the financial condition of the society is good, more ready cash is called for to sustain a clerical force needed to wait upon visitors, answer inquiries, and conduct an extensive cor-

respondence. Its rooms are a favorite resort of accomplished genealogical students, who generously extend the benefits of their learning to their less fortunate brethren.

Members only are allowed to take books from the shelves of the library, while non-members are given seats in the centre of the room, and receive such attentions as can be afforded there. By this means, facilities for genealogical pursuits are extended without danger of serious derangement or loss of historic material—a danger that results from allowing non-members free access to the shelves.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The following letter from the accomplished librarian of the Pennsylvania Historical Society and the editor of its Magazine, though not designed for publication, will amply repay a careful perusal. The diary referred to was kept by Dr. Abigence Waldo, at Valley Forge, during the winter of 1777–78. It was read before this society, November 30, 1861, and the original copy is still in this city. Our society has upon its shelves nineteen bound volumes of that society's Magazine, thirteen volumes of its Memoirs, all of its Collections, and numerous valuable historical works obtained through its mediation. This is one of the societies of the country that is not dependent for its usefulness and efficiency on State appropriations, though its library is occasionally enriched by contributions made by the State. It was founded in 1824, and has buildings and grounds admirably suited to its needs; namely, the historic estate of the late General Robert Patterson. It has funds of various kinds amounting to upwards of \$200,000. The letter of Mr. Stone shows that that society is wide awake, collecting and preserving valuable historic material that pertains not only to Pennsylvania, but to the whole country. It has purchased in open market within a few years more than forty numbers of the only newspaper printed in our historic city of Newport during the years 1777 and 1778. The list of these papers, furnished by Mr. Stone, is appended to his letter. Mr. Stone, and another representative of the Pennsylvania Historical Library, have recently visited Providence, their special object being to see the world-renowned John Carter Brown Library. Charles J. Stillé,

L.L.D. is the president of both the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and of the Cincinnati Society, of his State, and was the agent of a most generous hospitality this year to the Cincinnati convention, held there on the 13th, 14th and 15th of May.

PHILADELPHIA, May 27, 1896.

Dear Dr. Perry : I am very much obliged for yours of the 19th, and the information it contained regarding Surgeon Waldo's Diary. As soon as possible I will reprint it in our Magazine, as it appeared in the Historical Magazine, 1861-1862.

I enclose a list of the copies of the *Newport Royal Gazette* and the *Newport Gazette* in our Society.

In the closing number of Volume XIX. of the "Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography" you will find a full account of the "Trusts" of this Society, together with the finance report for the year 1894. Our chief strength is, I think, drawn from our large membership, which at present numbers, in round figures, 2,000 ; that is, 500 Life Members and 1,500 Annual Members. The former pay a Life Subscription of \$50.00, which is invested, and only the interest is used for the purposes of the Society ; the latter pay \$5.00 a year. There is no initiation fee, as such a fee often prevents a person of moderate means from joining a society ; as they are often unable to make the payment such a fee requires together with the annual dues. The result is, the loss of a member who would pay his annual dues for five or ten years, for what is, after all, a very small sum, and I have never known the sacrifice of an initiation fee to prevent a person from resigning when he felt inclined to do so.

There is no doubt that our large membership is, to a certain extent, owing to the social receptions given by the Society. These are paid for, by an extra subscription of \$5.00 a year, made by such persons as wish to take part in them. Any male member of the Society may subscribe, and the reception committee invite, such citizens and visitors to the city as they see fit, to meet the members at these social

gatherings. Five of these receptions are given each year, and while we have nearly 800 subscribers on the list, the number that attend, together with the invited guests, seldom reaches four hundred. I know that these receptions attract a few people to the Society, who only join it to take part in the receptions ; but it attracts to the Society a number who prove to be active members, and it keeps the Society before the public. The advantage of a large membership is, that it gives you a large constituency to appeal to, when the Society has any special object it wishes to carry out, and on such occasions, some of those who seldom enter the Society, excepting on the occasions of its social gatherings, are among its most liberal subscribers.

The books that I showed you when you were here, that we are having copied in England, are the Journals of the Lords of Plantation and Trade, 1675-1782. They are exact copies of the originals, and not abridged in any way, and relate to all the British Colonies in America and the West Indies. They are contained in about one hundred volumes. Besides the Journal, we shall have copied all of the Documents in the Public Record Office not already transcribed and printed, relating to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, and those relating in a general way to all the Colonies. The subscription to defray this expense illustrates the advantage of a large membership. In about six weeks, with little personal solicitation, and almost entirely by circulars and letters addressed to our members, we raised \$2,500 a year for five years. As these contributions are in no way binding on the contributors, it is certain that there will be some falling off by withdrawals and death before the five years have elapsed ; but I am confident that the subscription will average \$2,000 a year, or \$10,000 altogether.

I am very glad you enjoyed your trip to Philadelphia, and hope we shall have the pleasure of seeing you here again before long.

Very Truly and Sincerely,

F. D. STONE.

The *Newport Royal Gazette* and the *Newport Gazette* in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

1777.		1778.	
No. 1.	Jan. 16.	No. 55.	Feb. 5.
" 8.	March 6.	" 56.	" 12.
" 9.	" 13.	" 57.	" 19.
" 10.	" 20.	" 58.	" 26.
" 11.	" 27.	" 59.	March 5.
" 12.	April 3.	" 60.	" 12.
" 13.	" 10.	" 61.	" 19.
" 14.	" 17.	" 62.	" 26.
" 15.	" 24.	" 63.	April 2.
" 16.	May 1.	" 64.	" 9.
" 17.	" 8.	" 65.	" 16.
" 18.	" 15.	" 66.	" 22.
" 20.	" 29.	" 67.	" 30.
" 21.	June 5.	" 68.	May 7.
" 22.	" 12.	" 69.	" 14.
" 24.	" 26.	" 70.	" 21.
" 25.	July 3.	" 71.	" 28.
" 27.	" 17.	" 75.	June 25.
" 28.	" 24.	" 89.	Oct. 22.
" 29.	" 31.	" 90.	" 29.
" 30.	Aug. 7.	1779.	
" 31.	" 14.		
" 32.	" 21.	No. 112.	March 25.
" 33?	Sept. 4.	" 125.	July 1.
" 34.	" 11.	" 126.	" 6.
" 35.	" 18.	" 127.	" 15.
" 36.	" 25.	" 128.	" 22.
" 39.	Oct. 16.	" 129.	" 29.
" 40.	" 23.	<i>Gazette</i> Extraordinary, July 31, 1779.	
" 41.	" 30.		
" 42.	Nov. 6.	No. 130.	Aug. 5.
" 44.	" 20.	" 131.	" 12.
" 45.	" 27.	" 132.	" 19.
" 47.	Dec. 11.	" 133.	" 26.
" 48.	" 17.	1778.	
" 49.	" 26.		
1778.		No. 134.	Sept. 2.
		" 135.	" 9.
No. 51.	Jan. 8.	" 136.	" 16.
" 53.	" 22.	" 137.	" 23.
" 54.	" 29.	" 138.	" 30.
		" 139.	Oct. 6, ½ sheet.

JOHN ELIOT'S INDIAN TEACHER.

Mr. William Wallace Tooker, of Sag Harbor, N. Y., has done much to shed light on the aboriginal history of New York and New England. One of his most valuable productions is a sketch, entitled, "John Eliot's first Indian Teacher and Interpreter, Cockenoe-de-Long Island, and the Story of his Career from the Early Records." This sketch is the result of extensive and careful research among various records extending back more than two hundred years. Following is Mr. Tooker's *Introduction*:—

"This little work is a brief *résumé* of the career of an Indian of Long Island, who, from his exceptional knowledge of the English language, his traits of character, and his strong personality, was recognized as a valuable coadjutor and interpreter by many of our first English settlers. These personal attributes were also known and appreciated by the inhabitants of some parts of Connecticut and Massachusetts, by the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, and by the Governor of the Coloney of New York, all of whom found occasion for his services in their transactions with the Indians. The facts here presented in their chronological order, and the strong circumstantial evidence adduced therefrom, indicate the reasons why I have unraveled the threads of this Indian's life from the web of the past, and why the recital of his career should be the theme of a special essay, and of a distinctive chapter in the aboriginal, as well as in the colonial, history of Long Island."

At the April quarterly meeting, it was—

Voted, That a committee of five, named by the president, be appointed to devise and execute plans for the observance of the seventy-fifth anniversary of this society. This committee consists of ex-president Horatio Rogers, and Messrs. Charles H. Smith, J. Franklin Jameson, William B. Weedon, and Amasa M. Eaton.

At the same meeting a letter was read from the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, asking this society to appoint a committee of three to act with a similar committee of that society in suggesting to the Commissioners of the

New State House, distinguished Rhode Island names deemed worthy of being enrolled on the walls of the new capitol. This committee consists of ex-chief Justice Thomas Durfee, and Messrs. William Paine Sheffield, Jr., and John O. Austin.

THE FORMATION OF THIS SOCIETY.

Following is a copy of the original record :—

At a meeting of several gentlemen of Providence on the 19th day of April, A. D. 1822, to take into consideration the propriety of forming an historical society for this state at this time;

Jeremiah Lippitt was chosen to the chair & W. R. Staples, Secty.

Voted that it is expedient to form such a society, & that we do now form ourselves into such a society.

Upon motion made William Aplin and William R. Staples were appointed a committee to draft a constitution, by-laws etc. and a petition to the General Assembly.

Information being had that Dr. Solomon Drown possessed a complete file of the *Providence Gazette* in which is contained Gov. Hopkins' history of the town of Providence, W. Aplin was appointed a committee to procure it if possible for the use of the society.

Adjourned to Wednesday April 25.

Wednesday April 25.

met according to adjournment. Committee on constitution etc. reported in part & continued to report to-morrow to which time the Society adjourned.

Thursday April 26.

Society met & committee not being prepared to report, adjourned till to-morrow Eve'g.

Friday Evening, April 27.

Society met & committee reported a petition to the General Assembly for a charter of incorporation, together with the form of a constitution & by-laws—William G. Goddard was appointed a committee to present said petition to the

Gen. Assembly at their next session, & meeting adjourned *sine die*.

This petition being presented was continued by the Gen. Assembly to the June session at which time the following act of incorporation was granted in Pursuance of said Petition.

The following four pamphlets relating to the history of Rhode Island have been received by the librarian. The pamphlets by Mr. Bates and Miss Kimball were read before the Society.

"Rhode Island and the Impost of 1781," by Frank Greene Bates, of Cornell University. [From the Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1894.]

"The Constitution Controversy in Rhode Island in 1841," by Arthur May Mowry, of Harvard Graduate School. [From the Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1894.]

"Appeals from Colonial Courts to the King in Council, with especial reference to Rhode Island," by Harold D. Hazeltine, A. B., of Brown University. Reprinted from the Reports of the American Historical Association. 1896.

"The East-India Trade of Providence, from 1787 to 1807," by Gertrude Selwyn Kimball, of Brown University. 1896.

A small quarto volume of sixty-three pages is entitled, "Tax Lists of the Town of Providence during the administration of Sir Edmund Andros and his Council, 1686-1689; together with a list of names of all males sixteen years of age and upwards residing in the town of Providence in August, 1688, and liable for a poll tax" Compiled by Edward Field, A. B., member of the R. I. Historical Society, and one of the Record Commissioners of the City of Providence. Providence: Howard W. Preston. 1895.

THE OLD COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At Taunton, has met with a loss which is shared by this society. John Williams Dean Hall, who was, during his last nine years the secretary and librarian of that society, passed away on the 18th of January last in the 89th year of his age.

He began his industrial career about seventy-five years ago at Valley Falls, in this State. He soon removed to Providence, where he became an enterprising printer and the publisher of a newspaper. While here, he was an active member and officer of the First Light Infantry Company and participated actively in the life of Providence at that period. At length he removed to Taunton, where he was born, but he never lost his interest in the men, scenes and events that engaged his attention here. He exhibited in recent sketches and reminiscences a hand-writing that is rarely excelled by young men of the present day. His hopefulness, cheerfulness, energy, and rare good sense, are missed by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

VACCINATION FOR SMALL-POX.

The hundredth anniversary of Dr. Jenner's announcement of the discovery of vaccination for small-pox was observed on the 14th of last May by a union of the Natural History, Historical and Medical societies of Newport. Dr. Henry E. Turner, Dr. F. H. Rankin, Dr. V. Mott Francis, and others, gave addresses, showing the great benefits that resulted to humanity from Dr. Jenner's discovery. Portraits of Dr. Jenner and Dr. Waterhouse were exhibited, and letters written by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were read. The part taken by Dr. Waterhouse (who was a native of Newport) in introducing vaccination into this country, was a matter of much interest.

IMPORTED CRIMINALS AND PAUPERS.

Professor Francis Wayland, Dean of the Law School of Yale University, has written a report in behalf of our National Prison Association, urging a material change in the immigration laws of the country. In his view, our national life is endangered by the criminals and paupers that are shipped here from the Old World. He furnishes statistics, drawn from authentic sources, that merit the serious consideration of our citizens and of our national government.

"An Act for the purpose of Securing to Authors the exclu-

sive Right and Benefit of publishing their literary Productions for Twenty-one years."

Above is the title of an Act passed by the General Assembly of this State, in December, 1783. The object of this Act was not fully secured till a much later period.

It has long been a rule of this Society that persons who print extracts from its papers are bound to give credit to the Society for the same. Attention is called to this rule because some persons have not seen fit to regard the rule in their printed essays.

The annual and quarterly publications of this Society from 1873 to 1896, contain 202 necrological notices of members of this Society. An alphabetical index has been prepared by means of which the necrological notice of any one of these departed members can be readily found.

The paper read before this Society by the Rev. Dr. Henry M. King, March 5, 1895, entitled, "A summer visit of three Rhode-Island men to the Massachusetts Bay, in 1651," is soon to be published by Messrs. Preston & Rounds, of Providence.

GREENE ASSOCIATION — WHO HAS ITS RECORDS?

A pamphlet of thirty-one 8vo pages, entitled, "An oration pronounced at the First Congregational Meeting-house in Providence, before Greene Association, on their anniversary, August 7, 1813, being the birthday of their patron, Gen. Nathaniel Greene, by Joseph L. Tillinghast, Esq., Providence, printed by H. Mann & Co., 1813."

The committee of the Association consisted of W. R. Danforth, C. Blashfield and Samuel W. Wheeler. The orator says, on page 28: "Our objects are simply to commemorate the name of our State's peculiar hero." A foot-note (page 18) says: "The present commandant of the Kentish Guards is Col. Henry E. Turner, of East Greenwich, a gentleman liberally endowed with the honors of science, arts and arms." This is a good description of our associate, Dr. Henry E. Turner, of Newport, but he did not appear upon the stage of action till June, 1816.

WRIT OF ARREST AND ATTACHMENT.

The following is one of seven forms of a writ of arrest and attachment lately presented to this Society by a gentleman residing on the shore of Great Salt Pond in South Kingstown. The persons on whom these writs were served, by an officer of King George II., were yeomen, weavers and tailors.

Kings County ff.

GEORGE the Second by the Grace of GOD of *Great Britain, France and Ireland*, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

To the Sheriff of our County of Kings County or to his Deputy Greeting.

[L.s.] WE command you to arrest the Body of Thomas Adams of Charlston in the County of Kings County a Yeoman (if he may be found in your precinct,) and for want of his Body to attach his Goods and Chattels, and him or them in safe Custody keep, until he give sufficient Bond, returnable according to Law, to answer the Complaint of Gideon Wanton of Newport in the County of Newport, Esq, General Treasurer of the Colony of Rhode Island, at the next Inferiour Court of Common Pleas, to be holden at So. Kingston, within and for our said County of Kings County on the first *Tuesday* of August next ensuing the Date hereof, in an Action of Debt for Money due by one Bond, as by Declaration to be filed in Court, will be fully set forth the non payment whereof is To the Damage of the Plaintiff Seven pounds current Money of *New-England*. Hereof fail not, and make true return of this Writ, with your doings thereon. Witness Joseph Stanton, Esq; at So. Kingston, this 9th Day of July in the 16th Year of our Reign. *Annoq; Domini, 1742.*

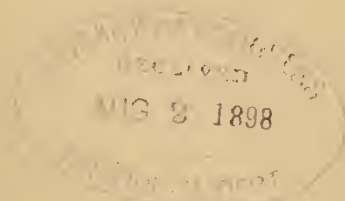
JAS. HELME, Clk.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW SERIES

VOL. IV OCTOBER, 1896 NO. 3

WHOLE NUMBER, 15



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The quarterly publication is issued on the first of April, July, October and January. Life members, together with active members who have paid their taxes for the current year, are entitled to this publication.

Subscription, \$1.00 a year; single copies, 50 cents.

[CONTINUED FROM VOL. IV., NO. 2, p. 106.]

It seems that a long credit was needed by many Proprietors, as well as emigrants to the Plantations who purchased small farms from them. There is recorded in the town-meeting book (27th of April, 1659) a list of "The names of all such as have paid all their purchase money and have quittances.* During this summer the Proprietors received an accession to their number, who brought a larger amount of property than was usual at that day. He, during many years, aided the Proprietors in their counsels and fought their battles in the town meetings with great vigor and steadiness. July 27th, 1659.† "This day, John Whipple Senr. is received into this Town a *purchaser*, to have a *purchase right* of land." He came from Dorchester, Massachusetts, and brought with him the Massachusetts notions of property, and of the need of care in its transmission. He soon became prominent in the town meetings, and Williams (second letter to Whipple, Rider's R. I. Hist. Tract No. 14) regarded him as one of the most troublesome of his enemies. He was licensed to keep an inn in the days when the holder of the position was one of the most important public functionaries. His house, on what is now Constitution Hill, was long the chief political centre of the town. Town meetings and councils, courts and legislatures often assembled there. He died May 16, 1685.

Williams was now ready to abandon Gregory Dexter's impracticable scheme of confiscation, for he had during some time meditated a proposal of his own. He had corresponded with Governor Winthrop, of Connecticut, in order to enlist his sympathy with the project if not to engage him to take some share of the lands. The Governor had evidently approved of the design, and some even hoped that he might be persuaded to make his abode in Rhode Island, and to become its chief magistrate. He was a learned man of large and liberal mind and could have rendered services to the State to which none of its citizens was equal. The "Planting of a new town," was now Williams's remedy for the disorders of the old one. (Williams's letters, Narr. Club's ed., 27 Oct., 1660.) The place chosen was Wayunkeke, a tract in the southern part of

*Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., pp. 31, 32.

†Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., pp. 117, 140.

what was afterwards called Smithfield. Its bounds cannot now be identified. The new township was to be purchased from the Indians, as if their title was still subsisting, and was to contain reserves for persons "distressed for conscience." This project would have led to important results if it had been practicable. It would have gathered into one permanent organization a corporation of all the enemies of the Proprietors of Providence; would have given them two representatives in the General Assembly, and as the towns were little subject to its control, would have left Wayunkeke town meeting virtually at liberty to dispose of the Proprietors' lands within its limits, at its own pleasure. These consequences Williams perhaps did not foresee, as he does not mention them, but they did not escape the foresight of Harris and Olney. Williams thus sets forth the scheme in a letter to the town, 27th of the 8th month, 1660. (Early Records, Vol. II., p. 134.) [Extract.]—"As to our new plantation, let us consider if Niswoshakit & Wayunkeke & ye land thereabout may not afford a new and comfortable Plantation. To this end, I pray you to consider if the inhabitants of these parts, with most of the Cowesets & Nipmucks, have long since forsaken ye Narragansett Sachems, & subjected themselves to Massachusetts." Williams could scarcely hope that the Proprietors would consent to a new purchase of the land which they had so long regarded as their own. But he had now another enemy on whom he had not counted in former quarrels. Newport during two centuries felt little interest in the town of Providence, or if she ever professed any, it was only to oppose whatever the plantation at Mooshassuc most desired. Not until the third of the last century had passed away would Newport, or any of the southern towns under her control, suffer a division of the town of Providence which would add to the political influence of the northern part of the State. Only the colonial assembly could establish a new town, and any application in that quarter was hopeless. Besides this, the Quakers were now the rising influence in the colony, and were soon to govern it according to their own pleasure, during many years. No party championed by Williams could hope for anything from them.

The Proprietors saw the danger of the theory that the Indians were still the owners of the soil. If they were at liberty to sell it to a new colony from Providence, they could also sell to a new company from Massachusetts, which could easily outbid Mooshassuc, and obtain a foothold here from which they could not be dispossessed, and from which they could be a perpetual menace to Providence.* The Proprietors and their leaders were ever alert and vigorous and they lost no time. Their views and apprehensions are best stated in their own words. This is from the prompt reply of Thomas Olney. "October 27 & 29, 1660, ordered & approved by the Town Meeting, Quarter Court October 27th, 1660. Ordered that upon a writing sent to this Towne by Mr. Roger Williams, bearing date the 27th of October, 1660, that Thomas Olney Sen^r. William Harris & Arthur Fenner† shall draw up a writing in answer unto the said Roger Williams, his writing, and it shall be sent unto him from the Town, and shall be subscribed by the Town Clerk. . . . The copy thereof followeth :

"Sir We received your letter & it being read in the ears of our Towne they considered this answer. That from these words in our evidence taken by you, which are these: The lands upon Mooshausuck & Wonasquatuckett which land, comprehend Musuassacutt Country, are ours already.

"& when we plant there, we will agree with the Indians either to remove or fence. 2ly Whereas you say the Indians have subjected to the Bay, we say they were subject to the Nanhegansett Sachems when you bought the Land which we now have, and yourself propose yet to buy. And we know that if we let go our true hold already attained, we shall (if

*At this very time the Atherton Company, a Massachusetts corporation, was dealing with the Indians in Narragansett for their lands, and setting up a pretended mortgage upon their territory from the Narragansett Sachems. (1659-60 Vol. I. Bartlett's Records, pp. 429-30; 438-39; 1664, p. 128.)

†Arthur Fenner, who was of the committee to draw up this letter, was one of the popular party and usually acted with Roger Williams against William Harris. He was fully aware of the danger of recognizing the Indian title as still subsisting. (Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 134.)

not ourselves yet our posterity) smart for it, & we conceive herein that we do truly understand what yourself doth not. And if your apprehension take place, as we hope it never will, in those your proposals, we haply may see what we conceive, you desire not, the ruin of what you have given name to, (viz.) poor Providence. As for the Natives complaining, we have not yet wronged them, any farther than satisfaction, that we know of, nor shall not, what their wrongs to us are, we have hitherto rather smothered than complained. Yet we must tell you that we shall not be adverse to any fair gratuity, either to take them off their fields or otherwise, always having respect to the act of the Sachem, whom you have formerly so much honored. And herein if you can accomplish we shall be ready to assist with further pay, upon our former groundes, otherwise we shall not meddle, and forbid any, so to do. Thus in love though in briefe, returned, We rest your neighbours, The Town of Providence.

Per Me, Tho. Olney Sr. Clarke, in behalf of the Town October the 27th. To Mr. Roger Williams—These."

Williams was always occupied with the interests of the Indians and regarded the land titles from their point of view. He never, it seems, became aware of the danger incurred by leaving the property in their hands. He proposed to buy a second time the Indian tribal lands and offered nothing to the Proprietors, whose rights he did not recognize. He could scarcely hope that they would agree for the benefit of other and later immigrants, who had always been hostile to them, to a new purchase of the lands which they had so long regarded as their own. The Proprietors, with the support of the "Quarter-rights men," had now the control of the town meeting. They insisted upon their former claim of absolute title to the upper waters of their rivers, and would offer nothing more than a *gratuity* to the Indians to induce them to remove quietly. The Proprietors were fully, and perhaps rightly, persuaded that the maintenance of their own title was essential to the safety or even the existence of the town. Besides this it was not certain that the new plantation would be more peaceful than the old. So many unquiet spirits, if they found no subject of dispute with Providence, would read-

ily discover causes of quarrel among themselves. The project of a new town found little favor, and this last attempt at compromise failed like its predecessors.

The townsmen were becoming somewhat straightened in their resources, and in February, 1658 (see Early Records, Vol. III., pp. 21, 22), common was established on all lands remaining unsold, on the west side of Mooshassuc River. This was but a partial relief, and available to but few. Something was attempted in the town meeting in aid of a new plantation at Wayunkeke, March 14, 1661-62. (Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., pp. 19, 38.) "A committee was appointed to view the lands about Wayunkeke, and to see where it will be convenient to place a towne & how the towne shall be placed and in what manner, & to bring in their report." Each of the committee was to have three shillings a day for his pains. But a farther examination did not confirm Williams's favorable opinion of Wayunkeke and the plantation of Smithfield was delayed until the early years of the last century.

It was evidently time for the Proprietors to do something for the enlargement of the town. Thus far they had only stood upon the defensive. There were no signs of prosperity. The western boundary of town and colony were still indefinite. There were no vessels, no fisheries, no market for timber. There was little profit in anything. Even with the aid of penal laws, such an estate in the wilderness could not be maintained. The oversight and police necessary to protect the land against depredation were heavy charges upon the incomes of those days. The Proprietors could not restrain their own townspeople, much less could they impose any check upon their neighbors of Massachusetts, who crossed the Blackstone River and felled and carried off their choicest cedars. Little redress could be obtained from any courts of "the Bay." One quotation may suffice as to plunderers nearer home. March 28, 1664. "Continual complaint cometh to this towne, about the great abuse that is done to meadows of men in general, which is certainly known to be done by swine rooting the said meadows up," &c. (Vol. III. Early Records of Providence, pp. 51, 52, 57, 58.) Then follows

another prohibition of swine on the common land, which proved as futile as any of its predecessors. By this law of the town of March 28, 1664, swine were to be forfeited if found going at large upon the common. The law was repealed October 27, 1664, "because," as the town records say, "many inconveniences are likely to ensue." Probably giving occasion to breaches of the public peace. When they could endure these annoyances no longer, the Proprietors began to look about them for some better method of managing an estate which was too unwieldly for the force at their command. They found it in a new policy, which in later years had an important influence upon the history of the town and colony.

Down to this time the uncertainty of Williams's Indian boundary had given inconvenience to private purchasers near Neuticonkonitt Hill and elsewhere. These things must be set in order before any new arrangement of the Proprietors' estate. One of the earliest troubles was with their own voters. Even the lists of the freemen were not kept with accuracy. "Town Meeting, March 26, in the year 1660." (Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 125.) "Thomas Olney, sen^r. Moderator . . . Ordered that the clerk shall draw up the names of the Purchasers and the names of the five & twenty acre men, and to sever their names distinctly." A landed oligarchy was already formed. It was of the highest importance that no person should find a place in the official list of Proprietors who had not a Proprietors' right or share. None other was entitled to be inscribed there, and the ordinary freeholder was not permitted to vote in town meeting upon any question which respected the Proprietors' estate. So long as this distinction was observed, the Proprietors were secure. The severance between the names was of importance, both political and social. On May 14, 1660, Town Meeting (Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 129), "It is ordered by the present Assembly, that the bounds of this Town of Providence for the first division, be set from the hill called ffoxes' hill, seven miles upon a West line, & at the end of the West line to go upon a straight line, North unto Pawtucket River, and upon a straight line South, unto Pawtuxet River & all the lands beyond

those bounds prefixed according to our deeds,* to be disposed of as this town shall see cause, any former law, or clause therein to the contrary notwithstanding." This was the old "seven-mile line." It was established in anticipation that a new town would some day grow up beyond it, of which it was to be the eastern boundary. It is now the dividing line between Cranston, Johnston and Smithfield on the east, and Glocester, Foster, and Burrillville on the west. With some trifling deviation, due to re-surveys, it remains as it was established more than 230 years ago. The Proprietors had become aware that they could make nothing of their outlying wilderness in the existing state of emigration. They were anxious to disembarass themselves of these distant woodlands, and to concentrate their attention upon the portion called "Providence Towne," which would be the first to rise in value. No more of the old proprietary shares were to be granted in the new lands, to excite the enmity of twenty-five acre men or smaller landholders. The old Proprietors were to retain all their former authority in the town street. In fact, they gained even more, as no others were to be admitted. The change of policy was not immediate. Every thing moved slowly in those days and especially among an untaught, agricultural people. The townsmen were to be accustomed by degrees to the new system. Those "Village Hampdens" were wont to be somewhat tumultuous in the exhibition of their political feelings, and as they increased in numbers the Proprietors became more anxious to avoid occasions of offence. Not until January 27, 1663, two and one-half years later, was it deemed politic to introduce this resolution: "At a Quarter Court, It is ordered by this present Assembly, that from this day forward, there shall not be any more people accommodated with land as *Purchasers*, within the bounds of this Towne, & that this order be not repealed without the full consent of the whole number of the Purchasers." (Early Records, Vol. III., pp. 48, 49.)

The number of Proprietors had now reached one hundred and one, at which it ever after remained. The society was even now uncomfortably large. Some of its members were

*Early Records of Providence, Vol. II., p. 129.

dissentients from the policy of its old leaders, and a new generation could not be expected to be more conciliatory. Olney and Harris must have explained in some manner how the succession of the estate was preserved to those who were entitled to the "fellowship of vote," according to Williams's Initial Deed; but I have found no trace of it. With this "order" there came to an end another design of Williams, that his purchase should be a public trust, to be administered by the future citizens. The Proprietors had long before formed a permanent society, limited in number, and private in its objects. It now was so avowedly. They could act with all needful force and unanimity, as their designs could no longer be thwarted by new shareholders. Some time passed by before they avowed their new policy, and in this instance it was needful to provoke no opposition. But the western line of the colony must first be established before their partition of their estate could begin, and an acrimonious controversy with Connecticut was in the way. Some doubts may have been entertained among the Proprietors themselves as to their new measures, and they proceeded with their wonted deliberation. Their surveys in the wilderness could not be prosecuted in winter, and they had the whole future before them with little other public business to distract their attention. (Very little else of public interest appears on the town books of this time.)

[See Bartlett's Col. Records, Vol. I., p. 417. Providence, May, 1659.] The Colonial Assembly had appointed a committee of four men to mark out the western bounds of the colony and notice was given to Governor Winthrop of Connecticut. Probably nothing had been done as yet under the colonial commission, when the town meeting (Early Records, Vol. II., p. 127. April and May, 1660)* . . ., "Ordered that six men shall be chosen to go next 2d day, come seven nights, & set the bounds of our Plantation twenty miles from ffoxes' hill, westward, up in the country." This was their

*Thomas Harris, Sr., was moderator of the April 27th and May 14th town meetings. He was of the party of William Harris and Thomas Olney. The Proprietors evidently had the control of the meeting for their votes of April and May, 1660, effectually destroy the authority of the "Sovereign Plaister," if it ever had any.

only instruction now extant. The town had no authority, only the colony could act in a matter of this kind. The townsmen probably erected some monuments to give warning to the colony and to Connecticut of the extent of their claim; they could do no more.

So closely were their controversies connected with all public interests that every event brought some new dispute between Williams and Harris. Harris had charged Williams with inconsistency in approving or supporting the establishment of the twenty-mile boundary line, as he had always maintained that the Plantations had no claim to any territory west of the line of the Initial Deed, save a mere right of common "up streams without limits," &c. Williams's answer was, that he approved the twenty-mile boundary because the Indian Sachems of Warwick had conveyed to the English settlers there lands to an equal distance westward from the Warwick shore. This seems a very insufficient reason. It is not easy to discover any rights which could be acquired by Providence by or under deeds of the Warwick Indians relating to another territory. But the controversy was now closed and could never more be made a subject of debate. (It was practically decided by the colony in appointing a committee to fix the boundary line twenty miles to the westward of Foxes' hill.)

After this resolute assertion by the Proprietors, in the name of the town, of their determination to appropriate to their own use the whole of Williams's purchase, he could do no more. The infirmities of age were beginning to press heavily upon him, and he made little attempt to protract a controversy which threatened to embitter his latter days. The Proprietors had now been during more than twenty years in possession of the disputed territory, and an attempt to dispossess them might endanger the peace or even the franchises of the colony. After a delay, which could not have been the pleasantest years of his recollection, he yielded to necessity. On the 20th of December, 1661, Williams executed a new deed, but not according to the wishes of his grantees. He now, with the concurrence of his wife, confirms his former deed of 1637, for himself and for his heirs,

to the original purchasers by name.* Williams's second deed had a seal and other formalities and a release of dower. But the succession under it was to be in the same society and "fellowship of vote" as before. This point he would never yield, and it does not appear to have been asked of him. The Proprietors already deemed their title strong enough without the second deed, and it was scarcely ever mentioned again. (Williams's first deed. I. Bartlett, 1638, p. 19. His second deed was of 1661, 20th of December. Early Records, Vol. III., p. 7.)

Having approximately fixed the colony's western border and the "seven mile line," which marked the least valuable portion of the territory, and having effectually prevented any increase of their own numbers, the Proprietors went on at their leisure to disembarass themselves as a society of the western part of their domains. (Early Records, Vol. III., pp. 18, 20.) March 7, 1661. "It is ordered that John Sayles, Arthur ffenner, William Wickenden, John Brown, Valentine Whitman & Thomas Olney Jun^r shall meet together and order about the division of the lands lying without the bounds which are prefixed for the town; how it shall be divided & in what manner, & what part every man shall have, and to bring in their conclusion unto the town, the next sixth day."† The committee were not neglectful of their work, and on the next "sixth day" it is ordered that, "all the lands which shall be divided, without the seven-mile line shall be divided by papers, according as it shall fall to every man so to stand." A question now arose as to the rights of the "twenty-five acre men." They had much in common with the Proprietors and their votes had carried the Proprietors safely through their controversy with Dexter, Williams and

*The whole title of the Proprietors had been in strict law only a possessory one. It was now sufficiently strengthened by the lapse of twenty years, which barred any ejectment suit against them. Williams's second deed was needless. The title was now perfect without it.

†On the same day with an accurate foreboding of the calamities awaiting the town, it was voted, "Deeds which concern this town shall be enrolled in our Towne Booke, and shall also be conveyed unto the General Recorder, to be enrolled in the General Records." A singular confusion of thought, as to the power of town governments to impose duties upon colonial officers.

the freeholders, and they were now to receive the first instalment of their reward. They had been made a separate class of voters before the "seven-mile line" was established, and it was necessary to make some new provision for them now they had become formidable from their numbers. The Proprietors fixed the rights of the "Quarter-rights men," apparently without any consultation with them. They acquiesced as they had always done in the determination of those whom they had always recognized as the true lords of the soil. (Early Records, Vol. III., p. 20.) "It is ordered that the right of the 25 acre men is, each man a quarter part so much as a purchaser without the seven mile line (paying a quarter part of the charge for the confirmation) ;" [*i. e.*, the money paid for the confirmation deeds of the Indian Sachems] "the which right doth arise by virtue of their commoning, which is within the seven mile bounds, according to the order whereunto they have subscribed their hands. Only those who were received with a *full* right of commoning *within* the seven mile bounds, are equal with a purchaser without the seven mile bounds, in lands & commoning, paying equal part to the *confirmation*, with the purchaser." In making this dividend no regard was shown to the ordinary small freeholder, who had bought from private landholders. He had no interest or share in the proprietary estate, and no right to vote in town meeting upon any question concerning it. The lands east of the seven mile line were henceforth to be more carefully reserved from sale, awaiting the possibilities of the future. New settlers were welcomed, but to be content with farms beyond the limits of civilized life, unless they were were ready to offer higher prices than had hitherto been given. At the same time an order was made in the town meeting prohibiting sales of the "common lands" yet unsold in "Providence neck" (Early Records, Vol. III., p. 21) between the Seekonk and the Mooshassuc. This order was not to be repealed without the unanimous consent of the Proprietors or purchasers and no more of the obnoxious "Purchasers" or "Proprietors" shares were to be created.

But much remained to be done, before there could be a division or dividend of lots. A survey of lands in the wilder-

ness went on slowly in those days. There were many rocky uplands which no man would accept and many brooks and limerocks of which many would gladly become owners. An hundred and one tracts of tolerably equal value were required for the Proprietors alone. Since the beginning of the town, no matter of importance had required the adjustment of so many details. Some were eager for the first choice. It was agreed by the town meeting (February 12, 1665), that William Hawkins and John Steere should have it, provided they paid their dues to the Proprietors, before the drawing.* Roger Williams was to be only the third in drawing. The Proprietors made their own conditions and caused them to be confirmed by the town meeting. "Quarter Day, April 27, 1664." (Early Records, Vol. III., pp. 53, 54.) "It is ordered that 50 acres of upland shall be laid out to every *Purchaser* of this Town, from the 7 mile line *eastward*, and none to be laid out nearer unto this town than three miles from the said line eastwardly, & every 25 acre man to have a quarter part so much as a purchaser, & every man to take his place as it fall-eth unto him by papers, & none to be laid out until seven months after this day [here follow boundaries]; also what meadow is within this seven mile line, three miles eastwardly as aforesaid, shall be laid out by equal proportions, making distinction between the Purchasers, & the 25 acre men. As also what meadow is found within the seven mile line, that is to say, 3 miles eastwardly from it, as aforesaid, shall be laid out unto every man, answerable unto his proportion, that is to say—the purchasers answerable to theirs, & the 25 acre men answerable to theirs. Also we agree that whosoever pays not in their money which is behind, about the land cleared, shall both lose their money which is behind, about the land cleared, shall both lose his place in choice, and also no lands to be laid out to him, until it be satisfied." Some of the Proprietors were in a low pecuniary condition, and it seemed to their solvent brethren a hardship that these should draw dividends before they had paid the purchase money of their shares. (Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., pp. 66, 67.) The order excited dissatisfaction. It expressed the

*Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., p. 69.

wishes of Harris and Olney and of the most wealthy of the Proprietors. But it created dissension and threatened farther delay. It was repealed in great part in the following January. (Vol. III., Early Records, pp. 66, 68.) Another example of the want of stability of the early legislation of the town. The limerocks were to remain in common. (Early Records, Vol. III., p. 93.) All difficulties being overcome the Proprietors drew another line, three miles nearer to the town of Providence. This line was called the "four mile line," and the territory was called the "second division" or "fifty acres division," situate, lying and being between the "seven mile line" and the "four mile line," set by order of the town of Providence. Nothing since the planting of Providence had furnished so much business to the town meeting, had been so often postponed, or fills so much space in the records. (Vol. III., Early Records of Providence, February 19, 1665, pp. 72-74.)

The great day came at last. There was no lack of a quorum at the inn where the freemen were assembled. The Proprietors or purchasers under Williams's deed, who held the entire unsold fee simple of the town—the "twenty-five acre men," longing for some increase of property and for a corresponding rise in the world, and rightly regarding this as an earnest of other like benefits to come—the small freeholders who had little more than small lots or gardens purchased of some more prosperous owner, who had found small profit in holding them or who had left the town, and who could only look on as spectators of a ceremony in which they had no share, were all, with very different feelings, eager for the great event of the day. Curiosity to see what was coming preserved order. Before the formalities began there arose in the midst of the assembly, the gaunt and picturesque figure of the founder. Age and infirmity were already pressing heavily upon him—the burden of his long and laborious service of the colony. In the presence of them all he "witnessed"—not now against the usurpation of the Proprietors, of which he was partaker, but against the "prophaning of God's worship by casting lots." He had no more to say, at least in public, of "up streams without limits," or of the "fellowship

of vote." All these questions he knew had been decided against him, if not judicially, yet by public opinion ; and he urged them upon the town meeting no more. Few others saw any caricature, still less any imitation of divine worship, in this eager grasp after prosperity. We may well believe that all smaller matters, even the publications of marriages, were hurried through without ceremony, and that the great business of the day was speedily begun. The solid men of the plantation, the Proprietors and purchasers, claimed the first attention. Ninety-three of these "drew papers" for lots east of the "seven mile line." Among the earliest of those who "drew papers," was Gregory Dexter, although the whole proceeding was in contravention of the doctrines which he had for so many years maintained, and was wholly subversive of his favorite "Sovereign Plaister." Williams, whose conscience was in a disturbed condition, and one Reddock, who was charged with not paying his dues, were given leave to draw their shares at a future day. The remaining six Proprietors, to whom no such opportunity was given, may have shared in Williams's scruples or may have been in arrears with their payments. Next in order were the "twenty-five acre men." They received their portion at the second table, as it were. But they made no complaint, satisfied that their investment in quarter shares had been so far a good one, and with an added opportunity of helping themselves from the Proprietors' common. The small freeholders offered no opposition, looked on with such edification as they might and reserved their wrath for town meeting and election days. They were well aware of the advantage which the early institutions of the town gave them. None of the deeds of these shares could be recorded, except by vote of the majority in town meeting, and the irate majority resolutely withheld their consent during several years. Their doings at elections we shall presently relate.* At the session of the Assembly at Newport, after the spring election, two delegates presented themselves from the town of Providence. There had been two town meetings and two town clerks. William Harris and Arthur Fenner the "assistants" of Providence had generally been

*See Bartlett's Records, Vol. II., 1667, p. 200.

opposed to each other in town politics and had probably called the rival town meetings. The "assistants" were also *ex-officio* members of the town council. Only the meeting called in the interest of the Proprietors was recognized by the General Assembly or has any record in the town book. William Harris and Arthur ffenner appeared as champions of the opposing parties, and charged each other with "rowtes" at the elections. The proceedings are briefly recorded and were closed by a letter of admonition from the Assembly to the town of Providence. The whole affair reached only this "lame and impotent conclusion."

The letter of the Assembly had little effect in calming the heated passions of the townsmen. The details are not preserved but we can readily comprehend what followed in the "Towne Streete," by the proceedings of the General Assembly. Williams next tried his skill in peacemaking. (Town meeting, March 8, 1668.) "Voted that the presentation in verse, presented by Roger Williams unto the Towne, this day, be kept among the Records of this Towne." The verses had but a brief existence and perished in the burning of the town. This was not the least valuable document lost in the Indian war. Why may not this precedent be revived, and this unworked vein of poetry be re-opened? If there be among us youthful aspirants for immortality, why should they not address their strains to the Common Council? Perhaps even the Board of Aldermen may be so softened as to yield unlooked-for answers to their requests.

Some extraordinary remedy seemed to be demanded by the disquiets of Providence. At the General Assembly in May, 1669, it was "Ordered that Mr. John Clarke be requested to write unto the inhabitants of the Towne of Providence, to persuade them to a peaceable composure of that uncomfortable difference that is between them." Mr. Clarke could have told them, that those who had granted the charter of the colony had already seen their mistake and would welcome any opportunity to take it away. (Bartlett's R. I. Records, Vol. II., pp. 288, 289, 293, A. D. 1669.) This well-meant endeavor failing like its predecessors, it became difficult to forecast the future.

The contentions about the proprietary lands were all the while going on. (Early Records, Vol. III., p. 136.) February 15, 1668. Arthur ffenner Moderator. "The bill presented by Henry Browne, Thomas Hopkins Sen^r. & Shadrack Manton is excepted, that each person may take up their land according to the former order, without prohibition of common. Voted & ordered that the former bill is excepted (*i. e.*, refused) in giving liberty that all common shall be free without any prohibition."

There is little that is pleasant in these details of town affairs. The strife went on until 1669, the disorders of the town meeting apparently increasing, until the freeholders seemed ready for another violent outbreak like that in Gorton's time. Their cause was just then severely injured by their old champion Gregory Dexter. His conscience had now become so tender that he refused to pay taxes for the support of government. William Harris had not forgotten Dexter's "Sovereign Plaister," of sixteen years before, which had stigmatized himself and his brethren with dishonesty and oppression. He eagerly seized the opportunity to retaliate upon his old opponent and to prove that he and the Proprietors were the only upholders of property and law. In Harris's conduct there was always more of the *fortiter in re* than of the *suaviter in modo*. Procuring a lawful appointment he levied the tax upon Dexter's estate. The vigor and severity of his proceedings gave occasion to Williams to speak with equal censure of them both.* The partizans of each doubtless concurred in Williams's disapproval of their adversary. The letters to Whipple were apparently of a semi-public nature, being intended to be read at Whipple's Inn, the great centre of information in those days.

The confusion in Providence had now reached such a height that the legislature became alarmed. They saw that the discords of a single town were endangering the privileges of the colony. The evil days described in Sir Henry Vane's letter seemed to have returned. Such disorders unchecked would cause the forfeiture of the charter, and nothing like it could be hoped for again. The Assembly at Newport (27th

*In his letter to John Whipple.

October, 1669) determined at last to make some show of firmness. On the last election day, two town meetings had been assembled in Providence, each with an official calling himself the town clerk. As usual, only the meeting which represented the Proprietors has any record in the town book. The clerk of one meeting certified that there had been no election; of the other, that deputies had been duly chosen. It seems that the day was not ended until there had been a resort by angry partisans to arguments more forcible, if not more convincing, than those of mere words. The legislature refused to receive the deputies from Providence as not being duly elected, and then made an earnest endeavor to secure peace. Probably, the Quakers of Newport prompted these efforts. "The General Assembly sadly resenting the conduct of its oldest town, & expressing its alarm at the grievous symptoms that appeared, of the dangerous contests, distractions, & divisions among our antient loving & honored neighbours, the freemen & inhabitants of the Towne of Providence, whereby the said Towne is rendered in an incapacitie for transacting their own affairs in any measure of satisfactory order, with peace & quietness, & consequently unable to help in the managing & ordering public affairs by Deputyes, that ought to be by them sent to the General Assembly, and jury-men to the Court of Tryalles, whereby there is, or seems to be a breach in the whole; upon consideration whereof, & upon finding that the case of the said inconveniences ariseth from disagreement & dissatisfactions about divisions & dispositions of landes, wherein it is impossible that either party can be clear from giving & taking occasion of offences, and it is altogether unlickly they will compose the differences, without some judicious men and unconcerned in the premised contest be helpful by their counsell to that end." The Assembly thereupon appointed five commissioners and requested and commissioned them to proceed to Providence, and there to endeavor to persuade the parties to an arbitration, or to call a meeting of the freemen, and to hold a meeting of *all* the freemen, and to elect town officers and town deputies to the Assembly (p. 287, &c.). "And to the end that it may appear how much we desire the same, the Court doe order that all

indictments or actions which have arisen, concerning or having relation to the difference aforesaid in the Town of Providence, shall be waived at present & no farther prosecution be therein, until the Assembly shall meet ;" . . "hoping in the mean time that all animosities will be extinguished."*

This well-intended scheme utterly failed. At the March session in Newport (1699, pp. 292, 293), the Assembly appointed two commissioners to ascertain who were the legal voters of Providence, and to hold an election for deputies to the May session.

The general sergeant of the colony was directed to be present, but we are not informed as to his ability to enforce his commands. The labors of the colony's five commissioners were in vain. Neither the Proprietors nor the twenty-five acre men would make any compromise which would involve the title to their estate. The irritation of the small freeholders was equally extreme.

The commissioners appointed from the leading citizens of Newport, visited Providence and strove, with such eloquence as was at their command, to accomplish the benevolent design of the Assembly. The townsmen were not accustomed to pay much deference to the wishes or the exhortations of Newport. They were too near to the days of Coddington's secession and remembered too well the readiness of Newport to abandon the first principles of Rhode Island and to subject herself to Plymouth. The disorganization of Providence had proceeded far. The town could hold no election, and now during several months there had been no town clerk, treasurer, sergeant or constable. The townsmen were left to their own discretion and self control, which (as appears from the numerous indictments then pending) could not always be trusted. The only town authority then remaining, the town council, took possession of the records and only delivered them up to John Whipple, when duly elected. (Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., p. 151 ; pp. 149, 150 ; December 15, 1669.) Newport was now under the political control of the followers of George Fox. We may imagine the effect of a moral lecture given by a committee of Foxians to the adherents of Roger Williams.

*Vol. II., p. 292, Bartlett's Col. Records.

At the election holden by the State officials, William Harris and Arthur ffenner were candidates for the place of second assistant. There was a difference of opinion among them, as to which had been elected by the majority of qualified voters, and "they both being not very free to accept upon such doubtful tearmes, thereupon by the Assembly, Mr. R. Williams was chosen assistant." In reading the memorials of these by-gone controversies we may see cause to be glad that the Plantations had sent forth no encouragement to the religious enthusiasts of the 17th century, who imagined themselves "distressed for conscience." Not many of them favored the settlement of controversies upon principles of peace and non-resistance. It would be difficult to estimate the consequences if the crowds who thronged the meetings of Fox and Burnyeat had been favored with discourses from the expectants of the "5th monarchy," or of the "family of love."

Though the adjustment of the quarrel in 1669 decided in express terms no principle of colonial law, yet it was effectual and final. It was felt by both parties that the success of the Proprietors was complete. The Assembly would do nothing in aid of the small freeholders who were the partisans of Williams. No interest which claimed as its champion the author of "George Fox digged out of his Burrows" could hope for any thing from the Foxian legislature at Newport, and the Proprietors were now well assured that they could appropriate Williams's Indian purchase at their pleasure. They went on accordingly, first to remove any clouds upon their title. During sixteen years, the "Sovereign Plaister" had remained upon the town records, as it had been inserted there by Dexter, without any authority but his own. The Proprietors had taken no notice of its injurious assertions. It seems probable that they would have continued to disregard it. But it appears to have been quoted in the General Assembly at Newport as evidence of the public judgment of Providence. On the 15th day of December, 1669 (Early Records, Vol. III., pp. 148, 149), the town meeting was once more assembled. The Proprietors were in the majority, for Thomas Olney, Jr. (their

life-long champion), was moderator. William Harris, also, was not "wanting to the meeting." On that day it was "voted & ordered, that whereas this Assembly having received information that there is a record in our Towne Booke, in the 126 & 127 pages of that Booke, wherein is the Combination, which record is a writing entitled an instrument or Sovereign Plaister, and was endorsed Thomas Clemence, the Towne having viewed a copy of the sd record, & considering the same, the matter therein, doe find it to be the most destructive to the peace of our Plantation, & the joint agreements of our Towne, & the orders thereof, the which, the Towne taking into serious consideration doe find the said matter to be utterly unwholesome & illegal, and doe hereby declare the said record to be wholly void, null, any agreement order or record at any time made, or any clause therein, to the contrary notwithstanding." This *was* an authentic record never revoked or questioned by the town. It put an end to attempts by the freeholders to defeat the wishes or acts of the Proprietors. Henceforth they administered their estate in their own way for what they deemed to be their own advantage. Gregory Dexter could not have looked back with much satisfaction over his sixteen years' labor. He had committed a gross impropriety by inserting in the town book a private document of a libellous character, without any authority but his own. The vote of the town meeting was official and authoritative, and there was no hope of its reversal. The "Sovereign Plaister" was never heard of more. The foresight of William Harris in cultivating the friendship of the Quakers and of a class of small proprietors,—the twenty-five acre men,—in union with the larger, had accomplished its office.

(Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., p. 156, 27th July, 1670.) The dissatisfied freeholders were not the only complainants. The unskillfulness of the early surveyors, and the tardiness of their action, caused loud complaints among the Proprietors themselves. Some of them found other shares overlapping their own or intruding into their place. No notice seem to have been given of the times of laying out the meadows, and the usual irregularities ensued. Not until the

interference of the town meeting did it seem possible to accomplish the work with speediness and peace. The usual quarrels about the boundaries of farms seem to have superseded quarrels over controversies of greater moment.*

Nothing of historical interest occurred during the next two or three years. It seems that those who participated in the dividend of lots, were not all of them satisfied with the result. In 1672 there were rumors that another was in contemplation. It was not viewed with gratification by those who could only look on while the town lands were divided among a limited number of the older inhabitants. Old grievances were not yet allayed. In view of what had passed, Edward Smith, of the family at the Town Mill, addressed his counsel or remonstrance to the town meeting. He had begun life as a "twenty-five acre man," but when he prospered he had acquired a "Proprietor's share." He held liberal views of the policy to be adopted in dealing with the different classes of landholders. (Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., pp. 225, 226.) 27th January, 1672. Mr. Arthur ffenner, Moderator, Voted that the bill presented unto the Towne by Edward Smith, shall be put upon the records of the Towne, & that each man's land, according to the desire made manifest in that bill, be recorded in the Towne Booke as their lawful right and inheritance, to them & their heirs, forever. Providence, the 27th of the 11th mo., 1672. This was Edward Smith's "proposal." "A reasonable, seasonable & ready way of encouragement to Planters in their labour in this our Plantations, of Providence, presented to the Town Meeting.

"Neighbours: Whereas there has been, & yet is, an uncomfortable difference in this towne, about a new division of lands, which you all sufficiently know, and in the time of this difference both sides hath laid out 50 acres to divers men, & some of these lands are known to be relaid, & more feared, which proveth a great discouragement to laborious men, for encouragement therefore to the industrious, do you, my neighbours, resolve, determine, these two things: first, that all these several shares of land, laid out in the new division to Planters, by both sides, shall stand, which shares consist-

*See petition of Epenetus Olney and the town order upon it.

ing of 50 acres, less or more, not exceeding 60, & that Planters on both sides to whom the said 50 acres was first laid out, that land shall be his proper right, whether the said relaying by either side was wilfully, ignorantly or under what pretence soever done, any former act or acts, thing or things, record or records made to the contrary notwithstanding. 2d^{ly}, that provision be made for recording the said 50 acre shares in the Town's booke, to those men to whom they were *first* laid out, so much of the forest to be suddenly subdued by the laborious, & become a fruitful field, which is the desire of your neighbour, Edward Smith." It appears from this statement of the difficulty, that some of those who were disappointed in the shares which they had drawn, had caused them to be "relaid," in more desirable places, taking to themselves many of the best sites — that some of the Proprietors held tenaciously to their newly acquired lots, neither selling nor cultivating them, and that immigration of "laborious men" was discouraged. The poorer townsmen found it no easier to acquire lands than it had been before. As no land transfers or titles could be perfected in those days without a vote of the town meeting, allowing them to be recorded, the dissatisfied party among the townsmen had thus found means to delay during several years the registration of the lots drawn by obnoxious Proprietors.* The Proprietors who had "relaid" or exchanged their shares, were by the resolution of Edward Smith, remanded to their original drawings. No farther hindrance was to be given to their registration. This power of a town meeting over freehold estates, thus summarily exercised at the request of Edward Smith, gives a view of the despotism of a landholder's government in those days. Arthur ffenner was the chief of the liberal party. His election as moderator shows that they were in the majority at that meeting. The adoption of Edward Smith's resolution, proves that all parties were now resolved to avoid further contention upon this subject and that the Proprietors had

*None but the Proprietors were entitled to vote upon matters concerning the proprietary estate, but when lots had been drawn by individuals, they ceased to be parts of the proprietary estate, and were subject to the votes of the entire body of small freeholders.

gained in substance all that they had claimed. The kindness of spirit manifested by Edward Smith, probably gained the adoption of his proposed compromise. The dividend was confirmed, all lots were now to be secure, but only as they were at first drawn. A dissatisfied Proprietor was not to be permitted to exchange or "relay" his drawing, and thus to select for himself one of the most desirable homesteads, instead of the chance benefit of the lottery. Even a Proprietor might be displeased at the greediness of some of his brethren, who, having drawn what they considered little better than blanks among the Proprietors' chances, made that a pretext for helping themselves to the finest sites in the Plantations. Perhaps the unanimity in adopting Edward Smith's resolution may be in part thus explained.

So great a dissension had been created by the first dividend that some years elapsed before there was an attempt at another. The Proprietors waited until 1675. They had established yet another division of their estate, "situate, lying & being between the seven mile line & the four mile line set by order of the Town of Providence." In order to pacify every one, on the 6th of April, 1675, it was "Voted & ordered that unto *every one* that hath a right in those lands beyond the 'seven mile line,'* set by the Town of Providence, shall be to each right one hundred & fifty acres of upland, laid out to them, any law or laws formerly made to the contrary notwithstanding." It does not appear whether the "twenty-five acre men" were becoming unquiet again. The designation had now become inapplicable and little more is heard of them in that character.

On the 12th of April, 1675, eighty-one Proprietors "drew papers" for fifty-acre lots *west* of the seven mile line. The business was not then completed. On the 24th of May, 1675, the Proprietors alone "drew papers" for lots between the "four mile line" and the "seven mile line." There were ninety-five proprietors living eastward of the seven-mile line. They did not then hanker after estates in the near neighborhood of an Indian frontier, even although they were to be had for nothing. It was long before they were offered another oppor-

*This included the twenty-five acre men.

tunity. At the dividend in April, 1675, a protest was offered in behalf of Joshua Verin, by Thomas Harris, Sr., and Thomas Olney, Jr., Epenetus Olney, and John Whipple, asserting his right to a Proprietor's share, which, it would appear, some of the townsmen still wished to subject to forfeiture for non-residence. More enlightened views of property were now prevailing, and Verin was allowed his claim as one of the original planters of Mooshassuc.* Little else occurred during the present year. There was little or no excitement about the "draught." The final adjustment of their rancorous old quarrel was drawing near, in the natural order of events.

The Narragansetts were already restless and little was needed to provoke a general uprising of the New England tribes. The following order may show the state of affairs in Providence. Town Meeting, October 14, 1675. Arthur ffenner, Moderator. "Ordered that six men every day shall be sent out of the Towne to discover what Indians shall come to disquiet the Towne, and that every housekeeper and all men residing in this Towne shall take his turn, & he that shall refuse to take his turn, shall forfeit to the Towne for every day's default, five shillings, and that it shall be taken by distraint, by the constable and that this order shall stand in full force until the Towne order to the contrary." The end was already near when the town meeting imposed this heavy burden. The weak and vain Canonchet, disregarding the counsel of Williams, set about to establish a military reputation for himself. The manner in which he did it belongs to the history of the State.† In due time came the ravaging of Narragansett and Coweset, and, in March, 1676, the burning of Providence. Suffice it to say, that with their habitations there perished most of the property of the planters. For the moment the hopes of the townsmen seemed to be at an end. Some of them left Providence, never to return. It offered few inducements to settlers during many coming years. When it revived, a tax of £10 was deemed sufficient for its ability, while Newport had

*The names of those who "drew papers" for shares of land west of the seven-mile line are given in the records of 24th of May, 1675.

†Dr. Stone has so thoroughly investigated the subject of the burning of Providence that it need not be done again.

lost little or nothing. Those who came back to rebuild the town were chiefly the first planters at Mooshassuc and at Pawtuxet and their families. These were the depositaries of its earliest traditions and they raised it up anew upon its old foundations. In the general ruin there came, almost for the first time, a period of union and peace. Even Williams and Harris could act together in a committee for the disposing of Indian slaves. While some were removing to other and stronger colonies, the Browns, Arnolds, Angells, Olneys, Carpenters, Rhodeses, came back to do their work over again, and they did it effectually. The old Proprietors were still recognized as the legitimate rulers of the town, and long years after the rebuilding, they were still as rigid as their fathers in their scrutiny and rejection of applicants for the "fellowship of vote," and for permission to purchase lots and to become inhabitants. One or two examples will suffice: 1681-2. "Voted & Granted unto William Hudson formerly an apprentice to Joshua ffoote, leave & liberty to buy land of any free inhabitant of this towne, & settle among us." "It is granted unto Daniel Jenckes that he hath liberty of the towne allowed him to dwell & abide with his brother Jenckes whereby he may learn & perfect his trade at his brother Joseph Jenckes."

With the revival of the town, some of its old troubles reappeared in full activity. Organized opposition to the Proprietors now sunk into displays of private malice. As before the war in 1676 there were (11th March, 1675-6) many intruders and trespassers upon the newly opened lands west of the seven-mile line. Four persons were appointed to warn off and to remove trespassers. It was necessary to bring the whole tract into private ownership. ffenner Smith, Ephraim Carpenter and Thomas Olney, Jr., were of the first who filled this undesirable office. How long this frontier police was maintained does not appear.

Some unexpected consequences followed the Indian war. The colony recognized no successors to king or sachem. There was no longer any fear of their bargains or alliances with Massachusetts. No Indian claims to lands were any longer regarded. The fields "up streams without limits"

were now the fee simple of the Proprietors, as Harris had always maintained. There was now no Indian chief whose title deed would have been sought or accepted, and all fears of a new purchase from them, west of the plantations, were dispelled. Henceforth the colony knew the Indians only as tramps and vagrants, and at a later day (when they had ceased to be Indians and were becoming negroes) — as wards.

Other influences were coming in of which the former generation of townsmen had known nothing. Charles II. had now been several years upon the throne. Republicanism was crushed and silenced for a century to come. The golden age of the English aristocracy had begun. The English Revolution of 1688-9 carefully kept itself free from every taint of democracy or equality. Property now ruled instead of Puritanism. No voice from English literature or politics gave sympathy or encouragement to the principles upon which American society had been founded. Governments were everywhere harsh, peremptory, based everywhere upon landed estates or military force. The so-called English Commonwealth had been no exception. In such an age the society of Proprietors of Providence was not obsolete or antiquated, or necessarily unpopular. It was not possible to set up any tolerable imitation of English political institutions on this side of the sea, but the colonies found no difficulty in forming an oligarchy in accordance with their own wealth and their own notions. In fact, municipal corporations everywhere were ruled by contrivances very like in principle to those of the purchasers of Providence. There was no democratic party anywhere. The newest religious party was that of the Quakers. They were monarchical in their tendencies and earnest seekers after the good things of this world. They had their own way in Rhode Island.

It will suffice merely to mention the Proprietors' dividends of the following years. On the 17th day of March, 1683-4, draughts were made for shares of land west of the seven mile line, among the proprietors, including Joshua Verin. One hundred Proprietors, Roger Williams, 2d, among them, drew lots. He had, it seems, reconsidered his father's scruples, and took his share with the rest. Perhaps he reasoned

that as the Narragansetts were now extinct, he could, with a good conscience, claim his part in their inheritance. Changes were now passing over the plantations at Mooshassuc. The older generation who had borne the burdens of its early years was passing away. Williams came no more to the town meeting and Thomas Olney was no longer heard at the Town Mill. Harris died alone, but, we may trust, not without friends, in a foreign land. With the old party leaders much of their bitterness passed away. The questions over which they had quarreled had found their own solution. The new age had interests of its own. They did not fight over again the battles in which their fathers had worn out their lives. The Indian war had left behind it a plentiful crop of troubles in every town. Their Indian land titles had been far from satisfactory and did not improve in value in the hands of speculators from Massachusetts. The present moment of peace and goodwill seemed an appropriate one for closing all controversies over them. The opportunity was readily seized, and was handled with a skill which would have done no discredit to modern politicians. The Quakers had control of Newport and its dependencies, of which they were the chief landholders, and they sympathized with the friends of Harris. Each town was to have what its great men wanted. In 1682 an act passed the Assembly at Newport on the 3d day of May, entitled, "An act confirming the grants heretofore made by the inhabitants of the Towns of Newport, Providence, Portsmouth, Warwick and Westerly, and to enable said Towns to make prudential laws and orders for the better regulating their Town affairs."

"Whereas in the 15th year of the Reign of our Royal Sovereign Lord Charles the 2d of Blessed Memory, there was a Charter granted to this his Majesty's Colony of Rhode Island & Providence Plantations in New England, in which was contained many gracious privileges granted unto the free inhabitants thereof, & amongst others of the said privileges, there was granted unto the General Assembly of said Colony, full power & authority to make & ordain laws suiting the nature, & constitution of the place, in particular to direct, rule & order all matters relating to the purchase of lands of

the native Indians ; And this present Assembly taking into their serious consideration that the lands of the several Towns of Newport, Providence, Portsmouth, Warwick & Westerly were purchased by the several inhabitants thereof of the native Indians, chief Sachems of the Country, before the granting of the said charter, so that an order or direction from the said Assembly could not be obtained thereon, and it having been thought necessary and convenient for the reasons aforesaid, that the lands of the aforesaid towns should by an act of the General Assembly of his Majesty's Colony be confirmed to the inhabitants thereof, according to their several respective rights and interests therein ; Be it therefore enacted by this present Assembly, &c., That all the lands lying & being within the limits of each & every of the aforesaid Towns of Newport, Providence, Portsmouth, Warwick & Westerly, according to their several respective purchases thereof, made & obtained of the Indian Sachems, be, & hereby is allowed of, ratified & confirmed to the *Proprietors*, of each of the aforesaid towns, and to each & every of the said *Proprietors* their several & respective rights and interests therein, by virtue of any such purchase or purchases as aforesaid : to have & to hold all the aforesaid lands by virtue of the several purchases thereof, with all the appurtenances, &c. to them belonging, or in any wise appertaining, to them the aforesaid Proprietors, their heirs, & assigns forever,"—"in as full large & ample manner to all intents, constructions & purposes whatsoever, as if the said lands & every part thereof had been purchased of the Indian Sachems by virtue of any grant or allowance obtained from the General Assembly of this Colony after the granting of the aforesaid charter ; And whereas there is within several of the Towns within this Colony, considerable of lands lying yet in common or undivided, & for the more orderly way & manner for the several Proprietors—their managing the prudential affairs thereof, & for the more effectual making of just & equal division or divisions of the same, so that each & every of the *Proprietors* may have their true & equal part & proportion of rights & that the exact boundaries of each & every man's allotments when laid out to him, may be kept

in perpetuum. It is further ordered & enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall & may be lawful for the *Proprietors* of each & every such Town within this Colony being convened by a warrant from under the hand & seal of an Assistant, or Judge of the Peace in such Towns—the occasion thereof being specified in the warrant—for them or the major part of them to meet, to choose or appoint a clerk, &c., a surveyor or surveyors, &c., & such or so many other officers as they shall judge needful & convenient for the orderly carrying on and management of the whole affairs of such community, and in like manner to proceed from time to time as need shall require. And it is further ordered that each & every town within this colony shall & hereby are fully Impowered to make & ordain all such acts or orders for the well management Rule & ordering all prudential affairs within their or each of their respective bounds & limits as to them shall seem most meet & convenient. Always provided, & in these cases, such acts & orders are not repugnant or disagreeable to the laws of the Colony.”

Other sections of this act provide for the other towns. Everything is here confirmed and made valid as the Proprietors desired. All objections to the sachems' titles were now removed, never to be heard again.

The Proprietors were now a corporation. They could act by majorities—could no longer be controlled or visited by the town meeting, but only by the Legislature, which was full of the representatives of towns having corporations like their own. They were now popularly styled “The Proprietors.” The name of “Purchasers,” referring to an event long passed, became obsolete. They could divide their estate at their own pleasure. The lands “up streams without limits” were assured to them, and no courts could question their title, or suggest any constitutional scruples.

The corporation made no change in its policy or its methods. They still discouraged all pursuits but those of farmers, as they had done from the beginning. Thus, December 14, 1681, “All inhabitants or strangers are prohibited from making coale or tar from pitchwood, &c., except to the quantity of ten gallons for his own use.” [*ex. gr.* see

February 24, 1661.] It had been the old practice of the town, during the summer, that the "people" (*i. e.*, the freeholders) were allowed to pasture their cattle in "Providence Neck,"* "paying for the damage that they doe." This was still permitted. On the 17th of July, 1682 (p. 65), an order of the town meeting recites that "Many persons to ye greate damage of ye Towne & of every commoner therein, through their covetousness, do irregularly & at unreasonable times, cut ye thatch, growing upon ye towne's common, thinking to benefit themselves, and to damnifie ye commons belonging to ye towne, and thereby in a little time will ruinate the same to ye Towne's great damage." The penalty was a forfeiture of all the thatch so cut and ten shillings for every load, to be paid to the town treasury. This annoyance lasted through several generations. Against these offenders the authority of the law could be successfully invoked, as the thatch-beds were in full view of the "Towne Streete." [See Town meeting Records, July 27, 1704.] Swine and goats were the chief pests of the early Proprietors, who, in spite of all their prohibitions, saw these reckless marauders wasting their meadow lands.†

(At this time, A. D. 1682, the west side of the "Towne Streete" was not built up. The houses on the east side of it stood upon a high bank looking down upon the shore and over the waters of the cove, 7th April. July 27th, 1704, Daniel Mathewson of Providence, for £30 conveys lands on "the south side of the salt water cove which lieth before the row of houses in said Providence Towne.")

Their orders were time and again renewed and revoked. The people resisted the forfeiture of a valuable part of their

*Before the division of the town of Providence, that part of it lying between the Seeckonck and the Mooshassuc was called in deeds and records "Providence Neck."

†A new generation has now grown up which remembers nothing of the ancient thatch-beds on the north side of the cove, and on the banks of the Wanasquatucket. They were once among the most valuable possessions of the Proprietors, yielding a sure income. Their destruction, caused by the narrowing and filling of the cove on the building of the Worcester Railroad, 1843-5, was one of the first changes in the scenery of the old town.

subsistence and during the first century of the town its records abound with complaints of the aggressions of the small freeholders and preserve memorials of the unavailing endeavors of the Proprietors to protect their domain. Their exclusive rights, the rural freemen never learned to respect. Protection was impossible, for there was no efficient police, and the proprietary lands were everywhere unenclosed. Far on in the next century, so long as any considerable part of them remained unsold, we meet with orders like this: February 6, 1710-11, "Swine found on the common without yoke or ring in the nose, to be forfeit." In its earlier days these prohibitions, and others like them, were not without their terrors, for the town meeting was alike informer, witness and judge. Years after the Proprietors had withdrawn their affairs from its cognizance, they still, as the chief landholders, controlled its decisions. In 1710 (May 22),* they ordered that "Goates are not to go at liberty on ye common." The "goates" still supplied a large portion of the meat of the poorer citizens, who were not to be allowed to feed them at the Proprietors' expense. In 1720, geese made their appearance on the common and fell under the same condemnation. July 27, 1720. "No goose is to go upon the commons highways or waters, or on any other persons land, on penalty of forfeiture." These are a few, but sufficient, specimens of the legislation of the Proprietors for the protection of their estate. All was in vain. The freeholders persisted in cutting timber in the unguarded forests and their owners vainly threatened those who felled their oaks and pines. The swine of the freeholders made havoc of the meadows, and the narrow policy of the Proprietors left them with little sympathy or redress. The smaller freeholders furnished most of the jurors, and we may be assured that they did not incline strongly against their own brethren in a legal contest with a Proprietor. These are specimens of the ills which befell the landholders of those days. They were increased by the loss of many evidences of title, at the burning of the town. This

*We cannot blame the Proprietors. The "goates" devoured the young seedlings and after a few years their ravages would have become apparent in the total disappearance of the forests. It was fortunate that other meats became plentiful before this mischief was done.

was deplored by Thomas Olney at the town meeting of 1684, as a cause of many succeeding troubles. Boundaries in the wilderness were irrecoverably lost, and a readjustment could only be effective after a long and irritating controversy of Proprietors with freeholders, or with each other. In those early days wealth had its anxieties as well as now. Some of these arose from unskillfulness or want of care, as thus: March 17, 1683-4. By a vote of this day it appears that the business of the draught of the 150 acres on the west side the seven-mile line was so imperfect that "each man's turn cannot be known," "by reason that several names are wanting, by which it cannot appear that they ever had any draught," and "some appear named more than once, as if they had two draughts, and some twice numbered." Let us not enquire the name of the town clerk of those days or why the landholders paid so little attention to their titles. We may not blame them if they deemed the property to be of little value. We may be content to learn that the whole draught was declared void and null, and that a second draught was ordered to be made.*

It might be of interest to say something of the methods and amount of taxation by which those early freemen maintained their social order. It is not now possible to give any full account of it, the papers of the town treasurer having shared the fate of the other documents of the old town. Great irregularities in levying and collecting taxes were common during the first century of the town. June 13, 1681, *ex. gr.* "John Whipple chosen Moderator . . . Whereas our Magistrates, with some others, took upon them to make a rate (as it is said by Town order) and have rated such as by

*December 2, 1685. On a question being made as to an order about lands, made in 1658, concerning all the lands on the west side of the Mooshassuc, it is recited that "said order by reason of damage which our town records sustained in the late Indian War hath miscarried." July 27, 1686. A title which had once been recorded was ordered to be again recorded from the recollection of the town clerk, who asserted that "he had seen it." 1678. Daniel Abbott desires to transfer a return of his land into the new book from the old, which is "much defaced by the Indians, 'for the more security.'" His request was granted by the town meeting.

(The foregoing paper by Henry C. Dorr, to be continued.)



Simon Henry Greene

ONE BRANCH OF THE GREENE FAMILY, WITH A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE JOHN L. HUGHES.

Greene Simon Greene
[The patriarch of the Greene family of Rhode Island is, at this time, Major-General George Sears Greene, born in Warwick, R. I., May 6, 1801, who, though now in his 96th year, is devoting much time each day to the preparation of a genealogical sketch of the descendants of Dr. John Greene, who came to Providence in 1638, and settled in Warwick in 1642. General Greene resides in Morristown, N. J., and takes an active part in the proceedings of the New York Historical Society. He has been a corresponding member of this society for nearly half a century. Another distinguished member of this family is Nathanael Greene, M. D., LL.D., of Newport, who is a grandson of Washington's special friend of the same name. He is the president of the R. I. Society of the Cincinnati, of which his grandfather was the first president in 1783.—ED.]

A paper read before the R. I. Historical Society, October 6, 1874, and a copy of it then left in the archives of the society in compliance with a request to that effect. The paper was designed as a communication to the secretary, but, proving of interest to the society, the copy of it is here reproduced, with a good likeness of its distinguished author, who, on the reorganization, in 1877, of the State Cincinnati Society became a member of it in the place of his father and by virtue of the services of his grandfather, Col. Christopher Greene. At his (S. H. Greene's) death, in 1885, his eldest son, Edward Aborn Greene, succeeded him as a member, and when the latter died, in 1892, his eldest son, Edward Aborn Greene, Jr., took his place in the Cincinnati Society.

CLYDE WORKS, WARWICK,

Riverpoint, R. I., May 16, 1874.

Hon. AMOS PERRY, Sec'y

Rhode Island Historical Society.

Dear Sir:—I read in the *Providence Journal* of the 8th April, 1874, a report of the proceedings of your Society at their meeting on Tuesday evening, the 7th of that month, that

a paper was read by you referring briefly to the history of the Rhode Island State Society of the Cincinnati, and that you were at a loss to ascertain who were the fathers of certain members who had been admitted in the right of their deceased fathers; "but who their fathers were, does not appear on record;" among those members was the name of my father, Job Greene.

In tracing *back* to the father of Job Greene, I will begin with the line of *descent* of the family of Greene to which I belong. John Greene was the first settler of the name in the colony. John Greene, jr., the deputy-governor, was the father of Job, called in his day Major Job. Philip was the son of Job. Christopher was the son of Philip; and Job, my father, was the son of Christopher — Colonel Christopher, of the Revolutionary War. Christopher R. Greene, my brother, was the oldest son and oldest child of Job, and became a member of the Cincinnati Society of Rhode Island, as the oldest son of a deceased member. The branch of the Greene family to which I belong has been somewhat conspicuous, as well as other branches of the family, in public affairs, civil and military, as well as in other relations of life, as recorded on the pages of the history of our State and country.

"Letters from the Pawtuxet," published in the *Providence Daily Journal* in the years 1859 and 1860, written by the late Henry Rousmaniere, give much information of the first settlers of the town of Warwick.

All who are familiar with the history of the first settlers of the colony, know who were the noted men of the name of Greene.

So far as I know, the deputy-governor was a man of mark. His son Job bore the title of Major Job, and was an exceedingly commanding, energetic man. His son Philip was one of our State Judges, tall and of fine personal development. Philip's son Christopher distinguished himself in our Revolutionary War, and was in command as colonel, at the defence of the fort of Red Bank, on the Delaware River. Christopher's oldest son, Job, my father, was an active citizen of Warwick, his native town, in both civil and military affairs. He had been a member of both branches of our State Legislature, and was elected the first commander, with the title of

colonel, of the Kentish Artillery, a military organization still in existence. His death is recorded in the family Bible as having occurred on the 23d of August, 1808, in the 49th year of his age. The record says of him, that "he was eminent for great abilities and possessed a most vigorous understanding. He was highly esteemed by his fellow-citizens for his learning and the integrity of his principles, and was honored by them with a number of important offices."

Christopher R. Greene, my father's oldest son, then residing in Providence, was elected captain of the Independent Military Company of Cadets. He possessed decidedly a poetical, literary genius, affable and public spirited. He had not the advantage of a collegiate education, but was a pupil, for a time, of Robert Rogers, an uncle of ours, a lieutenant of the Revolutionary army, and a member of our State Cincinnati Society. My brother was a contributor to the newspapers, and much esteemed as a public speaker, especially at political meetings. His occupation in early life, while a resident in Providence, was as an assistant in the Providence Bank, and for a time as a merchant in Providence. In the year 1811, he went to Savannah, Georgia, and in 1812, to Charleston, S. C., engaging in mercantile pursuits. He married a lady in Charleston. He died in South Carolina in 1825, in his 40th year. "He possessed strong natural powers of intellect, which were highly improved by study. He was devoted to religion, to his friends and to literature."

He delivered an oration in Charleston, on the 4th of July, 1815, which was printed. Copies were sent by him to me to be presented to the Providence Library, now merged in the Providence Athenæum, to the Warwick Library, then located in Centreville (now broken up)—a copy of which I have. A copy placed among the collections of your Society would be well disposed of, I think. It is eloquent and highly patriotic, and was much complimented at the time. The celebrated William Cobbett spoke of the author in high praise, calling him "the Chancellor Phillips of America." In his oration he alludes to his brethren of the Cincinnati; and likewise makes honorable mention of the American Revolution Society of South Carolina. The opening sentences of his oration are in these words: "This is the birthday of our Republic. It was

born of the spirit of liberty, cradled amid the counsels of wisdom and nursed in the arms of valor. It descended from an unnatural parent, who, like Saturn, attempted to destroy its own offspring. But still it flourished. Earth yielded it her treasures. Ocean was its barrier and its mine ; and its infant struggles for existence were crowned with victory and fame. How many patriot hearts bled for its protection—how many sainted spirits hovered over it in the hour of danger! The brave men of the East came to fight its battles; for the soul of chivalry delights to defend the weak, and rescue the oppressor. It flourished beyond hope or expectation. The first link that tyranny forged to enslave it, was severed by its sword ; and disdaining to follow in leading-strings an arbitrary, unkind and despotic parent, it assumed the independent station, for which nature had designed it.

“The tear of filial piety marked the separation. It embarked on an unknown ocean, without chart, or compass, or beacon—it escaped the quicksands, it survived the tempest, and the superintending Providence of Heaven conducted it in safety to the Haven of Peace.”

The closing paragraph is in the following words : “Now, my friends, let us perform the grateful ceremonies which belong to this occasion. Let all care be banished. Let the eye glisten with transport. Let the heart glow with exultation. Let the national feeling be lofty as the national fame—and the song of the bard, and the voice of music, and the peals of artillery proclaim that this is the Jubilee of the American States.”

After the death of my brother, in 1825, the complimentary sword presented by Congress to our grandfather, Col. Christopher Greene, which had become his as the oldest lineal male descendant, was sent to me from Charleston, with other of his effects—among them the beautiful eagle, a badge of membership of the Cincinnati Society, together with a trunk of papers. Among the papers I found collections he had made while living in Providence, of materials for the biographical sketch of Col. Christopher Greene, contained in the appendix to “Lee’s Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department,” published at Baltimore, I think, in, or near, the year 1813.

There is much information concerning my grandfather in Mr. E. M. Stone's work, entitled, "The Invasion of Canada, &c., in 1875." Many complimentary things are said of him in that work; and Mr. Samuel Greene Arnold in his "History of Rhode Island," has interwoven into his valuable work, a great part, perhaps all worth preserving, that is now known of the Greene family, down to the year 1790; the bounds as to time set by him to his history. Other authors have taken up particular individuals of the name, and have recorded details in connection with their lives which could not well fall within the scope of general history.

I have a copy of the resolution of Congress passed in relation to the sword, and the letter of the Secretary of War, written to my father, accompanying the sword. His father was killed before the sword was received from France, where it was made. The letter is a fine specimen of the classical style of composition, which was a marked trait of the terse style of writing of the strong men of that age of our nation's history. A copy of that letter may be found on page 56 of the appendix to Mr. Stone's volume.

I am the youngest of four children. My brother was the oldest. Between us were two sisters. My older sister was more like me, physically and mentally. The younger sister more like her older brother in those respects. Her perceptions were vivid, and her mind was practical and literary. She was somewhat aristocratic and possessed much pride of ancestry. She wrote a communication addressed to your Society, several years ago. She died in 1849, in the 55th year of her age. Her sister died recently, at an advanced age, 78, I think. They were both sterling women. I was born March 31, 1799, and am now, therefore, in my 76th year.

As I know more about myself than any other man knows about me, I trust I may be excused for saying something about myself in this connection. My father died in 1808, and left my mother to manage her family affairs in the best manner within her power; but she was unable to afford to me other than the opportunities for education of the schools we had in the vicinity of our home. My brother intended I should be fitted to enter college, and a course of preparatory study was laid out for me and pursued up to twelve years of

age, with that end in view ; but then, my school days ended. After that, I was put to such employment as would best assist my mother in her efforts to support her family. In the year 1815, I entered into mercantile and manufacturing employments with the old, highly respectable house of Messrs. Aborn & Jackson, of Providence, and remained with them until the death of Mr. Jackson, about the year 1835. I married in Providence, in 1822, the oldest daughter of Mr. Edward Aborn, who died in 1815. My wife is still living. We have had eleven children, five only now living. The survivors are Edward A. Greene, married, of Providence ; Henry L. Greene, Christopher R. Greene and William R. Greene, all married, living with their families in Warwick ; and George Greene, at present at Vicksburg, Mississippi, unmarried.

I was elected a member of the City Council by the unsolicited suffrage of my constituents of the 4th Ward, in Providence, to fill a vacancy made by the resignation of Mr. George Baker. This was my introduction to public life. I was reelected to that body and was a member and participated in the action taken for the improvement of the public schools, in the year 1838 ; but before the new system was perfected and adopted, I removed to Warwick in that year, where my business called me, and resigned my seat in that body. The new school system was soon afterwards adopted. That peculiar feature of it which provided for a superintendent was the subject of much private discussion by Mr. John L. Hughes and me. Mr. Hughes and I were colleagues in the Common Council from the 4th Ward. He was an older member than I was, and about two years older as a man. We were both grandsons of Col. Christopher Greene. His father, Major Thomas Hughes of the Revolutionary army, married the oldest daughter of Colonel Greene. Mr. Hughes and I thought we were the first to suggest the incorporation into a system for the management of public schools of a superintending officer to attend to the execution of the system in its general, practical details. The great value of such an executive officer was soon so apparent that the city of Boston adopted the same idea, introducing it into their school system ; and to aid in doing it and to carry their plan into effect, the services of Mr. Bishop, the first superintendent in Providence, who had

been eminently successful in his office there, were secured to assume the care in that capacity of the public schools of that city.

Mr. Hughes was an exceedingly industrious, energetic business man, and those high qualities were brought into active exercise in the discharge of his public duties in the City Council. He was well seconded in his exertions by his associates, among whom was Mr. Thomas R. Holden, of the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Hughes was a good extempore speaker, and a ready, rapid writer.

Mr. Hughes and I were both employed when lads and young men by the same mercantile and manufacturing house, Messrs. Aborn & Jackson, and both of us in matters of education were much benefited by the interest felt for us by our employers—particularly for the kind care of Mr. George Jackson, who was a scholar, a graduate of Brown University, and who had, besides, the advantage of travel in Europe—opportunities for improvement very rare in his young days.

Mr. Hughes was a devoted reader of classical literature—such as proceeded from the minds of Johnson, Addison and Steele, of English, and of Washington Irving, and other eminent American writers. He thus cultivated a taste for a refined, elevated literature, and thus laid the foundation in his own mind for the deep interest he manifested for the improvement of our systems of common schools. He was elected at one time a member from Providence of the House of Representatives of our State Legislature, and discharged his duty in that office with characteristic industry and ability.

In private life, after leaving the manufacturing business in which he had been engaged for several years in Rhode Island and in Pennsylvania, he was an efficient officer in establishing the Rhode Island Mutual Fire Insurance Company, as its first secretary, coöperating with Mr. Zachariah Allen, its first president, and with their associates the directors of that very successful insurance company. When certain gentlemen in Boston associated together and decided on establishing the Boston Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Mr. Hughes was solicited to assist them, as their secretary, in perfecting and executing their wishes in that regard—and

much to the credit of all concerned, they soon built up a model institution for that kind of insurance, which soon took a leading position among such business institutions, which is still maintained. Mr. Hughes took with him from Rhode Island, to be an assistant in his office, Mr. Joseph H. Low, a relative of his. Mr. Low has been a faithful, systematic accountant and officer, and still, though well advanced in age, discharges the duties of his office with the most praiseworthy fidelity and accuracy, assisting Mr. Edward E. Manton, also of Rhode Island, who is the president of that corporation.

Mr. Hughes was stricken with paralysis of the right side, in Norwich, Conn., while on a tour discharging the duties of his office. He rallied from his prostration, in a few days, and returned to his home and to his official duties in Boston, and continued for several years longer, crippled as he was, to travel and otherwise to attend to his business, and learned to write with his left hand. I have often recalled to mind with admiration, his indefatigable industry, resolution and enterprise, all through his varied life, and I confess I was astonished at his pluck to drag himself literally about the country, visiting and examining personally the risks their company were solicited to take. He was ably seconded in the meantime, in the office at home, by his faithful assistant, Mr. Low. Reduced by his increasing infirmities nearly to utter helplessness, he was compelled to resign his office, and Mr. Edward E. Manton, now the president of that insurance company, was elected to fill his place. He returned to his native State, and made Providence his last home and resting-place. He survived for years, but physically and mentally he became the wreck of a man, before he died. He left a widow who survived him a few years. They both outlived the children they had.

Not long ago, it was suggested in the City Council of Providence, that one of their new school-houses be called the "Hughes School House." Remarks were made by some one or more of the members which indicated that they knew little or nothing of the important part he [Mr. Hughes] took in perfecting and establishing the present improved condition of their public schools. He well earned such a tribute to his memory.

In a communication intended to give an outline of personal relations and character, which may possibly be of some interest to posterity, I may be pardoned, I trust, for saying a few words more of myself.

In the year 1838, as I have said, I removed my family from Providence to my native town of Warwick. Not long afterwards I was solicited to take an active part in public affairs — was elected a member of the school committee, associated for a part of the time with our present Chief Justice, the Hon. George A. Brayton, and with the late Hon. John Brown Francis, I acting for a series of years as clerk of the board, while Governor Francis presided at our meetings. In 1839, I was elected one of the representatives of our town in our General Assembly. Was a member during the political discords the people of our State passed through in the year 1842. Went with my sons, then lads, with the military to aid in suppressing the rebellion, which had culminated in taking up arms against each other by the opposing parties; one party, led by Thomas Wilson Dorr, who were agitating for a constitution to secure an extension of suffrage and other political rights, against the "law and order party," the party holding the government of the State, duly elected under the old charter, the only constitution the people of the State had hitherto acknowledged.

In July, 1842, my partner in business died, and I felt obliged to withdraw for a time, at least from public employment, excepting that I continued to act as a member of the school committee.

When the "Know-Nothing Party" was at the zenith of its power, I was earnestly solicited to become a member, and, because I declined to be tied up to carry out its secret conclusions, I found myself in opposition to some of my nearest and dearest friends, personally, as well as politically, and when a moderator of our town meeting was to be chosen, I insisted on the compliment of a reelection, but declined to serve, that a candidate obsequious to that party might be nominated and elected.

After a few years, I was again restored to our General Assembly, as a member of the House — and for the last two

years of my public life as senator, in the years 1859 and 1860. In the latter year it became necessary to take steps towards strengthening our State treasury. The constitution, in the state of things then existing, prohibited a resort to loans for that purpose, beyond the sum of fifty thousand dollars of State debt, without the express consent of the people. The leanness of our income required a revision and remodeling of our revenue laws to supply the means of defraying our public expenses. As I had had considerable experience as chairman of the committees of finance in both branches of the Assembly, I felt it as incumbent on me to consider the subject of increasing our State revenue, and to frame a bill for that purpose. Among the new objects for taxation were the savings banks. The policy of the General Assembly had hitherto been not to tax institutions for savings; and while such institutions were untried experiments, that policy was commendable. But in the year 1860, there had been then deposited in those banks, of principal and accrued interest, the large sum of about eight million dollars; and, taking into critical, comparative review the different interests of the people of the State which would best bear taxation, no good reason appeared to excuse any longer so large a part of the property of the citizens of the State from bearing a moderate share of the public burdens. It was therefore provided in the bill reported by the committee, that deposits in savings banks should pay a tax of fifteen cents on the hundred dollars. This measure met with a warm *outside* opposition, and delegates from two of the largest savings banks appeared before the committee to oppose it; but, notwithstanding, when the bill was reported to the Senate and explained by the chairman (published in the *Providence Journal* of March 8, 1860), it passed that body, with only one dissenting voice. It was sent to the House and promptly concurred in during the morning session of that body. But in the afternoon session a motion to reconsider was made and carried; and as the Assembly was near the time of its final adjournment, the bill was lost for the time. Some newspaper discussion was carried on anonymously after the adjournment of the Assembly. The bill was taken up by the new Assembly, or another

similar to it, and passed. A communication from me on the subject of the bill was published in the *Providence Journal*, March 17, 1860. The writer was never again a candidate for the General Assembly. Infirmities in later years, and particularly increased deafness, disqualified him from taking part in deliberative assemblies. He was nominated in the year 1860 by the regular Republican convention for the office of Lieutenant-Governor, with James Y. Smith for Governor. The party had, however, become demoralized, and an opposition ticket, headed by William Sprague for Governor and Samuel G. Arnold for Lieutenant-Governor, was nominated and elected.

When, soon afterwards, the general government called upon the States to help in sustaining it against the secessionists, I thought it providential that young men so active and so capable in all necessary qualities were at the head of our State government to render the vigorous and prompt attention the occasion demanded.

My youngest son, Francis C. Greene, then nineteen years old, promptly obeyed the call for military aid, and joined Company H of our Second Regiment, and was seriously wounded in the first battle at Bull Run, taken a prisoner and carried to Richmond. He was exchanged the following winter, and obtaining an honorable discharge, returned home. His wound was caused by a ball shattering the bones of his left leg. He engaged in business with his brothers in Missouri, but suffering from his wound and declining in his general health, he returned to the paternal roof, and died in December, 1865. He was a noble, patriotic boy. His name is inscribed on the monument in Providence erected by the State in memory of her sons who sacrificed themselves for the good of their country.

My oldest son, Edward A. Greene, married the oldest daughter of Amos D. Smith, of Providence, and has always resided there. He was at one time a member of the Common Council, and for a long time a member of the school committee, declining a reelection to that office, this year (1874). My second son, Henry L. Greene, married the oldest daughter of Oliver C. Wilbur, of Providence, and has resided in

Warwick since his marriage. He was twice a member of the town council, and a justice of the peace ; but the holding of offices conflicted so much with his business vocations, he felt obliged to decline appointments that would draw him too much from his private duties. My third son, Christopher R. Greene, married in Warwick the oldest daughter of the late Charles Pratt, of Providence. He was at one time when living in Providence an active politician, but never aspired to, and never held, public office. My fourth son, William R. Greene, married Miss Mary Postlethwaite, of Louisiana. He has not taken much interest in political life. My fifth son, John W. A. Greene, has lived in Warwick, where he married a daughter of Joseph H. Low. He was an active, warm politician, and was elected a member of the town council, and held some other official appointments. His health was impaired for many years. He died March 29, 1873. My sixth son, George F. Greene, has resided in the South for many years, and is unmarried.

All my sons have sustained unimpeachable characters and possessed good talents, and of decidedly religious proclivities, endeavoring, I believe, to lead religious lives.

As to my own moral and religious belief, it may possibly be of interest to some one in the future for me to declare that I always was a friend of moral reform — always an abolitionist and a friend of temperance ; but had a lean in such matters to conservatism. When the "Maine Law" was passed, I was a member of our General Assembly and voted for it. I regarded it as an extreme measure, however, but was in favor of trying the experiment. I was a member when the "Fugitive Slave" act was passed by Congress, and felt some share of the indignation which others felt at the passage of so revolting a measure.

The free States had succumbed in a great degree to the imperious demands of slaveholders, and the spirit of liberty was attacked and its life threatened in what should have been the house of its friends, and did indeed seem to be on the point of utter dissolution. But the spirit of freedom is heaven-descended, and although at times it may be beaten

down and its existence threatened, it will eventually vindicate itself; for, like truth, "the eternal years of God are hers." The love of freedom is implanted in man by his Creator, and is an essential element of his manhood. It is a principle of the mind which cannot be assailed with impunity. Attacks upon it, if not vigorously warded off, will enslave the mind.

My mother, and oldest sister, and her husband were devoted Methodists, and my mind was religiously impressed at an early age, and I passed through a variety of exercises of a religious tendency, among the Methodists, in their religious fervor, at different times, from my childhood to early manhood. But, at and after the age when the rational faculties exert a power over the mind, I read, with interest, the writings of the Quakers, and attended their meetings, occasionally, in Providence.

At about thirty-five years of age, some of the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg unexpectedly fell in my way, and the more I read the stronger were my convictions of the truthfulness of his explanations of the meaning of the Divine Word as recorded in the Bible. My eyes were opened to see some of the wondrous things of the Divine laws; and in the year 1836, I became—externally at least—a member of the New Jerusalem Church, associated with a few others in Providence. My partner in business, and some others then living in Warwick, also became members, and when I removed from Providence to Warwick in 1838, I was appointed a leader and reader in our regular meetings, on the Sabbath-day, for worship, and have continued to officiate in that capacity to the present time, now thirty-six years, in a house first provided for the double use of a school and for public worship, but now fitted for, and used only for, religious purposes.

I would here say, that Swedenborg has not been understood and appreciated. He was modest and unpretentious, learned and scientific. He was "*the servant of the Lord Jesus Christ*," as he says of himself, "to explain to the understandings of men the internal or spiritual sense of the inspired writings, preparatory to the introduction into the world of a

new Christian dispensation—the dispensation of the New Jerusalem, descending from God out of Heaven.” But the world is becoming better acquainted with his claims to be heard, and sees in clearer light the profound theology and the religious philosophy contained in his writings. And mankind, lending a listening ear to the dictates of enlightened reason, and dismissing prejudice, will doubtless see the truth; and the truth—Divine truth obeyed, will assuredly make them free. Swedenborg says, that “Love is the *life* of man.” Scripture says, “God is Love,” and “the fountain of Life.” Swedenborg says, “Love is the life of religion, and the life of religion is to do good.”

I close by remarking, that my story, if thought worthy of preservation among the collections of your Society, may give suggestions to some future antiquarian searching, it may be, for light to be reflected upon the subjects to which I have alluded in this paper.

I might have added, when speaking of my political life, that I was elected a delegate to the Republican Convention which met in Chicago for the nomination of President and Vice-President of the United States, in the year 1860. My first votes were for Salmon P. Chace for president, but as the balloting proceeded, it was plain that Abraham Lincoln would be the successful candidate, and I changed my vote for him.

Succeeding most important events of a national character, threatening the life of our government, have proved that both Mr. Chace and Mr. Lincoln were the right men in the right places, to render efficient service in conducting our nation successfully through the perils of one of the severest civil and military conflicts recorded in the history of mankind—a contest whether freedom or slavery should be in the ascendant and triumphant—which happily terminated in a complete overthrow of negro slavery.

SIMON HENRY GREENE.

LOSSES SUSTAINED BY PORT OF PROVIDENCE IN HER NAVIGATION.

The *Providence Gazette and Country Journal* of January 14 and 21, 1764, contains an article of six columns, entitled, "An Essay on the Trade of the Northern Colonies." The essay is signed P. It is commended by the editor to the attention of readers. The following paper is introduced near the conclusion of the aforementioned essay:

"A complete List of Vessels fitted out of the Port of Providence (with the Commanders' names annexed), which have been taken, plundered, cast away, and lost at Sea, from the 20th of May, 1756 (the commencement of the late War), to the present Time.

1. Schooner Hannah Ebenezer Tyler taken
2. Sloop Polly Jacob Carpenter taken
3. Sl. Providence Thos. Manchester lost at sea
4. Snow Squirrel Elisha Peck taken
5. Schooner Rosannah Christopher Sheldon taken
6. Sloop Dolphin William Chace lost at sea
7. Snow Dolphin Christopher Sheldon taken
8. Brig. Hope William Donnison taken
9. Sloop Success Benj. Wright taken
10. Sloop Elizabeth Theoph. Williams taken
11. Snow Desire Rufus Hopkins taken
12. Schooner William James Hopkins taken
13. Brig. Wenscot Edward Dexter plunder'd
14. Ship Barque John Peck taken
15. Sloop Endeavour Thomas Warner taken
16. Sloop Dove John Dunwel taken
17. Sloop George Joseph Bull taken
18. Brig Hannah Paul Tew taken
19. Brig. Britannia Nehemiah Rhodes taken
20. Brig Cumberland Samuel Angel taken
21. Schooner Warren William Earle taken
22. Priva. Sloop Black-Snake, J. Randal taken
23. Sloop Prize Jonathan Pitcher cast away
24. Priva. Brig. Providence Silas Cook taken
25. Sch. Good-Intent Theoph. Williams taken
26. Schooner Sarah Nehemiah Rhodes taken
27. Sloop Raven Zacheriah Edey lost at sea

28. Sloop Elizabeth.....Urian Davistaken
29. Sloop Speedwell.....Silas Cook.....taken
30. Brig. Providence.....John Randaltaken
31. Ship Diana.....Charles Rhodestaken
32. Sloop Dolphin.....Benj. Wright.....taken
33. Schooner Nancy.....William Metcalf.....taken
34. Sloop Catherine.....Joseph Arnoldlost at sea
35. Sloop Providence.....Daniel Bucklintaken
36. Sloop George.....William Earlecast away
37. Sloop Elizabeth.....John Lee.....taken
38. Sloop Smithfield.....Samuel Warnertaken
39. Privat. Sch. Goldfinch..W. Metcalftaken
40. Sloop Voluntier.....John Godfreytaken
41. Sch. Wheel of Fortune..R. Stonehousetaken
42. Brig. Seaflower.....George Hopkinstak & rans.
43. Sl. Pawtucket.....Rufus Hopkinstak & retak.
44. Sloop ——.....Simon Smithtaken
45. Sch. Game-Hen.....John Pecktaken & rans.
46. Sloop Molly.....Moses Browncast away
47. Schooner Speedwell....Simon Smithcast away
48. Sch. Rainbow.....Remmington Arnold..lost at sea
49. Sloop Joseph.....Samuel Dunn.....cast away
50. Sloop Abigail.....Nathan Arnold.....taken
51. Sloop Speedwell.....John Updike.....taken
52. Sloop Polly.....John Waterman...taken & retak.
53. Sloop Recovery.....Thomas Sterry.....lost at sea
54. Sloop Speedwell.....Gotlieb Extinetaken
55. Privateer Sl. Revenge..Caleb Cranstontaken
56. Schooner Greyhound...Jesse Jonestaken
57. Sloop Industry.....Anthony Trippcast away
58. Brig Industry.....Philemon Williams...cast away
59. Sloop Venus.....Joseph Kinnicutt ..taken & rans.
60. Sloop Molly.....James Frankscast away
61. Sloop Mary.....Ebenezer Tyler.....taken
62. Sloop Susannah.....Solomon Owen.....taken
63. Sloop Speedwell.....Wm. Waterman.....lost at sea
64. Sloop Kinnicutt.....George Hopkins.....taken
65. Sloop Voluntier.....George Hopkins.....cast away

"About the latter end of the year 1755, the Sloop Annie, Thomas Lawrence, was lost at Sea.

"N. B. Those Vessels mentioned to be cast away, were entirely lost to this Port, but the People were saved; and those mentioned to be lost at Sea, never were heard of after they sailed from hence."

The editor adds, "We propose to give our Readers a List of Losses sustained by the Port of Newport in her Navigation from the same Period, if an exact one can be obtained."

EDITORIAL NOTE.

The foregoing list of Providence vessels that were fitted out, taken, plundered, cast away or lost at sea between 1756 and 1864 was submitted to a citizen of Providence, who, on account of his extensive acquaintance with the family and commercial history of the place, is especially qualified to furnish interesting notes and comments. While his reply (given below) contains some valuable information, it will have a painful interest to a wide circle of friends, including many persons whom he has helped to a knowledge of their family history. Let us hope, however, that despite his painful impressions while penning the following letter, he may yet recover his strength and long continue his career of usefulness as a student of our local history.

MR. HOLBROOK'S REPLY.

Dear Mr. Perry:—The long list of disasters to the maritime interest of the historic men of Providence, just received from you, is a great surprise on account of its magnitude. This list contains many familiar names, the study of which I should like to engage in if health permitted. But impaired memory in connection with physical ailments prevents devotion to correspondence upon subjects that I have heretofore engaged in.

You make special inquiry about the three Hopkinses on the list—Rufus, George and James. The last was not, I think, a resident of Providence. But Rufus and George were sons of Governor Stephen. Rufus was the eldest of the family and George was the youngest. Their careers are alluded to in the "One Line of the Hopkins Family," which work you have at hand in the library. The account of Rufus can be found on page 28, and that of George on page 32, of that work.

ALBERT HOLBROOK.

Isaac Barker ^a (Isaac ² , Robert ¹). B M 1707, Oct. 23. D 1754, July 7. Duxbury, Mass. Elizabeth Slocum ⁴ (Peleg ³ , Giles ² , Anthony ¹). B 1690, Feb. 12. D 1774, Aug. 18.	Benjamin Keen ³ (Josiah ² , Josiah ¹). B 1682, July 26. M D 1736. Duxbury, Mass. Deborah Barker ³ (Robert ² , Robert ¹). B 1686, Nov. 7. D 1736 (—). (Widow of Prince Howland.) James Barker ⁶ (William ⁴ , James ³ , James ² , James ¹). B 1692, Jan. 26. M 1715, Dec. 1. D 1750. Dartmouth, Mass. Elizabeth Tucker ³ (Abraham ² , Henry ¹). B 1691, Aug. 24. D 1768, April 2.	Joseph Anthony ³ (Joseph ² , John ¹). B 1682, May 19. M 1711, Sept. 18. D 1775, Oct. 18. Tiverton, R. I. Elizabeth Fry ² (Thomas ¹). B 1679. D 1754, Dec. 19.	
Prince Barker. B 1716, Feb. M 1746, Nov. 6. D 1784, Jan. 27. Pembroke, Mass.	Abigail Keen. B D 1790, Sept. 2.	Abraham Barker. B 1718, April 5. M 1745, Feb. 20. D 1775, Feb. 20. Tiverton, R. I.	Susanna Anthony. B 1723, Dec. 10. D 1801, Aug. 10.
Benjamin Barker. B 1756, Nov. 30. M 1785, Jan. 27. D 1837, June 19. Pembroke, Mass.	Ann Barker. B 1750, Aug. 29. D 1789, Aug. 16.		

ABRAHAM BARKER.

Born 1786, Nov. 16. Died 1855, Feb. 24.

Tiverton, R. I.

<p>Thomas Borden ⁴ (Richard ³, John ², Richard ¹). B 1697, Dec. 8. M 1721, Aug. 14. D 1740. Tiverton, R. I.</p>		<p>Mary Gifford ³ (Christopher ², William ¹). B 1695, Oct. 6. D</p>	
<p>Richard Borden. B 1722. M 1747, Mar. 12. D 1795, July 4. Freetown, Mass.</p>		<p>Joseph Cook ⁴ (Thomas ³, John ², Thomas ¹). B B M D Tiverton, R. I. Patience. B B D</p>	
<p>Isaac Hathaway ⁴ (Jacob ³, John ², John ¹). B 1705⁺ M D 1749, June 7. Freetown, Mass. Sarah Makepeace ⁴ (Thomas ³, William ², Thomas ¹). B B D</p>		<p>Thomas Bailey ⁴ (Thomas ³, John ², William ¹). B 1715, March 1. M 1734, Jan. 14. D 1793, Feb. Little Compton, R. I. Mary Bennett. B B D</p>	
<p>Hope Cook. B 1726, June 28. D 1791, Mar.</p>		<p>Phebe Bailey. B 1734, July 8. D 1785⁺</p>	
<p>Thomas Borden. B 1749, Oct. 26. M D 1831, May 24. Fall River, Mass.</p>		<p>Mary Hathaway. B 1757, Nov. 21. D 1824, Feb. 18.</p>	

JEFFERSON BORDEN.

Born 1801, Feb. 28. Died 1887, Aug. 22.
Fall River, Mass.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES.

A friend calls attention to the name of John Waterman (No. 52 in the list on page 186) who commanded the sloop Polly, and he asks, "Was this the John Waterman whose regiment defended Warwick Neck, in December, 1776?" (See 2d page of Arnold's oration on the Battle of Rhode Island.) He further asks, "Was this the commissary John Waterman for whom the State is to erect a monument at Valley Forge?" His inquiries are referred to correspondents.

From MRS. CHAS. L. ALDEN. Who were the parents of David Richmond of Rhode Island, born 1747, went in 1800 to New York State to Mt. Upton? Family tradition says he was a major in the Revolution. Benj. Cowell's "Spirit of '76," pages 16 and 17, says he was lieutenant in Providence Company in 1775. I would like to know more of his ancestry and services.

Who was Oliver Noyes (page 38, "Spirit of Liberty"), "Private in Capt. Martin's Company, for the month of September, 1776"?

Did he afterwards go to South Carolina, and have a daughter who married a Tibbits of Troy, N. Y.?

Who was Isaac Bucklin, claimed by descendants to have been under John Paul Jones? His weapons are in their possession. Where can proof of service be found? Would like also his ancestry.

HENRY WRIGHT FAMILY.

Henry Wright appears in Dorchester, Mass., as a landowner in 1634, and he was admitted as a freeman on May 16, 1635. His wife's name was Elizabeth, and they had two children—Mary Wright, born April 1, 1635, and Samuel Wright, born February 14, 1637, both at Dorchester. Henry Wright was one of the "seventy-one most prominent inhabitants" of Dorchester, who deeded Thompson's Island to the town for the support and establishment of the free school, in February, 1641. He removed to Providence, R. I. (probably in 1643), and purchased of John Throckmorton, one of the original home lots fronting on the town street, lying immedi-

ately south of that occupied by Roger Williams. Here the Wright family remained for three generations, next door neighbors to Roger and his descendants. The north line of the lot is practically what is now Bowen Street, from North Main to Hope Streets. There is a mention of Henry Wright's will in the Providence records in 1677, but the document itself appears to have been lost. Henry Wright is mentioned in "a list of the inhabitants who tarried in Providence during Philip's War of 1675."

Samuel Wright, son of Henry, inherited his father's property; viz., the home lot and meadow which the latter bought of John Throckmorton. Samuel also owned a twenty-acre lot which had belonged to Throckmorton. When the latter went to New York in 1643, he probably sold every thing he owned in Providence to Henry Wright. Samuel Wright died in Providence, February 26, 1716-17. His wife's name was Johanna. They had a son, Benjamin, who settled his father's estate, and came into possession of the home lot. Benjamin's wife was named Lydia. In 1718, Benjamin Wright sold a corner of the home lot to Daniel Chaffe; and the remainder, with buildings, to Joseph Williams, son of Daniel. The consideration was £300, and Joseph Williams gave in exchange a farm of 135 acres, with buildings, in what is now Smithfield, on the eastern bank of the Woonasquatucket. Benjamin Wright died in Smithfield, April 22, 1754. In his will he mentions the following children: Samuel, Zephaniah, Charles and Benjamin; Anne Smith, Hannah Williams, Lydia Hopkins, and Freelope Sweet. As executors, his son Zephaniah, and his son-in-law, Silas Williams, are mentioned.

In order to complete a genealogy of the Henry Wright family the undersigned wishes to learn the maiden names of Elizabeth, Johanna, and Lydia; also full particulars of the eight children of Benjamin, and their descendants.

Please address

NATHAN M. WRIGHT,
Journal Office,
Providence, R. I.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND CULLINGS.

THE NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Was organized in 1845. It celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1895, and the Rhode Island Society was invited to assist in the exercises of that occasion. That society has done good work in collecting and preserving historic material that pertains to its State and Nation.

Its publications are highly creditable. It began soon after its organization in 1845, printing a small quarterly publication, entitled, "Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society," and sustained that publication until 1893. It published between 1845 and 1873, seven volumes, entitled, "Collections." There have been brought out under that society's auspices, since 1880, eighteen well-edited, well-printed, and well-bound volumes, entitled, "New Jersey Archives." All of these publications are duly arranged upon the shelves of this society, which has been in close correspondence with that society from the outset.

Besides these three series of publications, we have upon our shelves town histories brought out through the influence of that society, together with numerous sketches of battles, scenes and events of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods of the State and Nation. Some of the members of the New Jersey Society, including William A. Whitehead, have made for themselves more enduring monuments than marble or bronze. One member of that society who is still on the stage of action, and is now the president of the Cincinnati Society of his State (William S. Striker), has produced thirteen essays which are upon our shelves and are highly prized for the information they contain.

Yet this society that has done so much for its State has not the satisfaction of having attained the acme of success. It has failed, if correctly reported, to provide suitable quarters where its members can assemble for historical purposes; it has failed to have its collections classified, arranged, cata-

logged and indexed, where they can be consulted by members and by students of history generally. It is situated much as the Rhode Island Society was twenty years ago when its cabinet was in such a state of confusion, disorder and chaos as suggested a comparison by no means agreeable.

While in this condition, Princeton College has, it is reported, offered to provide the society with a fire-proof building upon its grounds in Princeton, and to foot the bill for the support of a librarian. The offer is creditable to the business enterprise of Princeton College. That institution could, we think, afford to make a larger offer, provided it could thus secure the free use of the society's valuable historical collections for its professors and students.

It remains to be seen what action the society will take in the premises. It can hardly remain in Newark, the great railroad centre of the State, or in Trenton, the capital, without providing for itself suitable quarters with a competent librarian and clerical force, nor can it consistently become a mere annex to any other institution in the State.

LETTER FROM DR. TURNER.

GREENE ASSOCIATION—GREENE, TURNER AND NIGHTINGALE FAMILIES.

NEWPORT, June 30, 1896.

Hon. Amos Perry.

Dear Sir :—Your kind favor was duly received. I know nothing of the Greene Association, except what you told me the other day and what I learned from your note, page 137, No. 2, Vol. IV. of the quarterly, and I don't know of any clue to the desired information unless Gen. George Sears Greene can furnish it.

In relation to the Henry Edward Turner, who commanded the Kentish Guards, in 1813 (two years before my birth), he was the third son of Dr. Peter Turner of East Greenwich, and was my uncle and namesake. He was born in 1787, and was elder brother of my father, James Varnum Turner, who was born in 1789. Both of them were physicians. Dr. Henry E. Turner married Martha Washington, the eldest daughter of Major-General Nathanael Greene of the

Continental Army. This lady was the widow of John Nightingale, son of Col. Joseph Nightingale of Providence. Dr. H. E. Turner, after a few years' practice in connection with his father, in East Greenwich, removed to Colombia, Maury County, Tennessee, where he resided many years. He afterwards removed to Georgia and died at Savannah in 1861. He left four daughters, never having had a son. Dr. Turner went to Tennessee, then a wilderness, to settle on a tract of land which had been granted to General Greene by the State of Georgia. He was preceded by my father who went first to prepare buildings, &c., and make arrangements for the accommodation of my uncle's family, which consisted not only of himself and wife, but of two daughters who were born in East Greenwich. My father was at that time unmarried. His brother, Dr. Henry E., was an original member of the Rhode Island Medical Society, and delivered in 1809 the fourth of July oration in East Greenwich, which was printed and only three copies are now known to be extant.

Yours faithfully,

HENRY E. TURNER.

THE INDIAN DEED QUESTION.

[The original paper, of which the following is a copy, is printed here as having a bearing on the question whether the document that has been handed down from the early settlement as the Indian Deed of Providence is genuine or is a forgery. The following paper, addressed May 4, 1708, to the Honored Court at Newport (the General Assembly) is not signed, but internal and circumstantial evidence is adduced that satisfies critical members of this society that it was written by Howlong [Harris] Fenner, daughter of William Harris and wife of Arthur Fenner. The question of forgery has been raised, but before a judicial decision is reached, it needs to be examined in its various aspects by persons competent to such a task. This society,—this community, has but one object in view, the attainment of the truth. To this end readers are hereby furnished with the means of examining for themselves Howlong Fenner's explanation of how the original Indian Deed of Providence came to be torn and reduced to its present condition.

The original document, of which the following is a copy, is among the manuscripts of the City of Providence, Town Papers Nos. 16,786-16,788, Vol. 39 A, pp. 87 & 88. Persons who are not satisfied in regard to the authenticity and authorship of the paper are referred to the editor. The paper is printed here at the request of the publication committee.—Ed.]

To the Honoured cort sitting at new Port on Rhod Ileland the fourth day of May 1708. I am prest in my spirit to lay before your Considerations the many strang and strong undermining Trancacttions acted done by those men called pawtuxet men I haue seuerall times heared my honoured father giue a Relation of the first settlement of the plantation of the Town of Providence I heard my father say that himself with the other twelue agreeded among themselves to lay out to euery man a share of meddow and then to cast a lotts so they did and that fel to my father by lot and they that see cause to set their houses by their meddows, and my father did settel by his meddow old Mr William Arnold laid out my fathers meddow old Mr William Carpenter built the house for my father by my fathers meddow and my father setteled down by his meddow in peace and quiet but not long in peace the afore said Mr. Arnold and Mr Carpenter bauth the meddows and lands ouer again of the Indians on the west side of Pachaset River where my father was settled sd Mr Arnold and his son in law Rodes bought the meddows and lands upon pautuxe Riuer on the west side of Pachaset Riue ouer again of the Indians after a Mr Roger Williams had purchased them of the Indians Sachims old Mr William Arnold and Mr William Carpenter and their asosiates had subiectted them seuels to Boston Gouverment in them times sd Mr Arnold and Mr Carpenter maid complaint to Gouvernour endecote of Boston that William Harris was settled down upon their land Gouvernour endecote summoned my father down to Boston to answer to the complaint of Mr Arnold and Mr Carpenter the plainttiues had all the writtings in their hands and my father had not one euedence in writting for his defence my father went down to Boston to giue answer in his one defence. I heard my father say he

informed Gouverneur endecot and the court that he father himself was one of the purchasers of the Town Ship of Prouidence that all the thirteen did agree to lay out to euey purchaser a share of meddow and cast lots for each mans share and that fell to him by lot and William Arnold laid out the meddow and William Carpenter built his house upon this land by his meddow they knew in their conciences it was true what he had affearmed Gouverneur Endecott poyntted out his finger at William Arnold and said is it so old man is it so and Mr Arnold and Mr Carpenter hanged down their heads and made no answer and it pleased God in his goodness and mercy to deliuer my father out of their undermining hands old Mr Holleman an old Mr Stutley Westcott were two of the thirteen Westcott gaue his to his son Robbart Westcot and my father bought Mr Hollemans Right and Mr Westcot Right of them and Mr Carpenter forbid my father to moeing of them meddows and said he had bought them meddows of an Indian then my father proffered Mr Carpenter Arbetration or Law which he would and Mr Carpenter tooke up with Arbetration and my father chose old Mr John Easton and Mr Torrey of Roade Ileland and Mr Carpenter chose Mr Hath Horn and Mr Lusher of Bosto Mr Carpenter said he would chuse men that had heard nothing of the case before they come Mr Carpenters one Arbytraters condemed Mr Carpenter case to be very naught to bie the land ouer again after they had by joynt agreement purchased it all the lands on the east side and west side of Pacheset Riuer from Pawtucket Riuer to Pautuxet Riuer up streams without Limits.

I heard my father seuerall times giue a relation of Williaim Arnold Raseing out some of their Town deed my father said that after they had written coppies out of the Town deed it was put into the hands of William Arnold to keep and when the Towns men had an ocations to call for their deed some of the deed was cut out and the two ends laid together and pastted on a pees apaper my father said the Town men were exceding angry and would have had William Arnolds ears bin cropt and proued him pargared [perjured] father said old Mr William feild prest uery hard to haue Arnolds eares cut

of my father said he was unwilling and purswaided uery much wt his partnours to forbear and not to bring the old man to open shame in old Age my father said he could hardly Restrain them from the old mans eares if my father had bin silant at that time it had bin well old Mr Carpenters eldest son Joseph Carpenter before he went to long Ileland to liue was at work at my fathers and I heard my father aske him what the matter was his Granfather Arnold hatted my father so greatly Joseph Carpenter answered my father that his Granfather told him that he had the orgginal deed of the Town in keeping and his Granmother thought it was a pees of wast paper and Raped up garden seeds in it when she had soed her seeds she threw away the deed as waist paper and he found it and wt lieing out in the wet some of the deed Tore out and William Harris would haue had his eares cut of my father told Joseph Carpenter if he had not wtstud them and intreated them uery much they would haue cut of his Granfathers eares because his Granfather had cut out some of the Town deed my father told Joseph carpenter they could tell what was cut out by the coppies my father desired his partnours that he and they might Lay out all their lands on the east sid of Pochaset Riuer and all the lands and medow on the west side of Pacheset Riuer to say the lands and meddows on the north side of Pautuxet Riuer called Tuskewonkenit and the meddows and Lands at Meshunttatack that euery partner might know what was his one but his partnours would not agree to the laying out of the Lands nor meddows when my father saw that he could not obtain his desire to be possest of his one perticuler Right to himself then he sent his sons and mowd Tuskewonk meddows the next summer old Mr Zacharias Roades that old disclaimer the father of disclaimers mowde Tuskewonk meddows before the Grass was its growth to under mind my fathers Tittle they undermined so long till they cast it to Warwick men old Mr William Arnold the father and Granfather of underminers and disclaimers with his son Mr Steuen Arnold gaue in their Testimonies to Warwick men that the Lands on the west side of Pachasit Riuer was never bought my father went to Law with Warwick men

and had seuerall suets with Warwick men for the meddows and Lands of Toskewonk I heard my father say when he cast Warwick men the courts would giue father some times three pence dammage and some times two pence dammage Warwick men settled John Hazard upon mashantatac land and meddows to keep possession for Warwick then my father had more charg and trouble I heard my father say that none of his partnours were true to him sauing old Mr William Field all the other of his partnours wer wearry to keep themselues from charg old Mr Carpenter told my father he was contented Mashuntutac men should have the Lands he had no need of the Land and Mashuntutac men were poore men so that for the most part my father managed all the sutes and Beare all the charg himselve the judgement was two or three pence dammage after their had bin many Tryalls at court for the said Lands the court grantedt judgment for an execution to giue my father possession of Mashuntutack Lands and meddows the sargant came up to

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* * * * *

in suruaeing that Southermot branch fall and not plead to that nor sue for it I have cause to remember the Trancacttions of my father his Suruaeing and his journeys and charges and unpouerishment and greueous Toyle and labour I had and angger I met with from my aged crasie mother while my brother keptt himself free from the Trouble of my fathers business and after it was well toward fourty years hard seruic therein was greatly indeauering to turne me out of all my Labours with nothing Mr Amos Rice son told my mother if she suffer me to be Ronged it would be agreat Sin and shame and a just cause to make children hat to liue wt their Parents he told her that there was a great many of there colony could giue in testimony for me that I had bin a faithfull child and seruant both to her self and father it pleaased God of his goodness and mercy to Raise up Mr Rice son Mr Olney Mr Wharton to be fathers to me in my defence against that old under minding disclaimeing enuious spirit of that Pautuxet wasquamates spirit wh preseedes from the serpent that underminer Adam and eue

From *Providence Sunday Journal*, Aug. 2, 1896.

VALUABLE MANUSCRIPTS. AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST IN
MAKING THEM USEFUL.

For some time past the Rhode Island Historical Society has been busily engaged in making its valuable manuscripts available for reference. Heretofore, the information they contain was out of reach except to a few persistent searchers. Now by the aid of well-prepared indexes, a certain portion of the documents can be readily consulted. Among these are nine volumes of colonial papers and four volumes of military papers of the Revolutionary period. The Moses Brown papers are being indexed, but the funds to continue this line of work are exhausted. At the quarterly meeting of the society in July progress of the indexing was reported. An appeal was at that time made for funds to continue the work. In response, two members of the society offered to subscribe \$25.00 apiece, provided twelve or more persons would subscribe a like sum for the purpose. The treasurer or librarian would willingly receive pledges from those interested along this line. The society's rooms, once filled with a chaotic mass of books and papers in heaps and piles, has recently assumed a presentable and healthful appearance. The very great demand for a knowledge of Colonial and Revolutionary ancestors makes it likely that many Rhode Islanders will assist in continuing the indexing of documents.

The only response to the foregoing appeal is the receipt by the treasurer of a check of \$25. The uniform policy of the society has been not to pay out money until it is received. Its treasurer who has performed the duties of his office gratuitously about thirty years declines to pay bills until the funds are provided therefor. Consequently the work of indexing the manuscripts is suspended and can be resumed only when the funds for it are furnished.

One way to increase the resources and the usefulness of the society is to increase its membership. During its early period and indeed until a comparatively recent date its membership was intentionally restricted. When the changed policy was introduced, nearly a quarter of a century ago, it

encountered opposition on the part of senior members. Now it has come to be understood that to enlarge its circle of members, extend its influence, diffuse information, and thus awaken interest in Rhode Island history, is its best policy and an important means of success. Its efforts in this direction have been successful. Yet it would seem that its work was but little more than begun. Rhode Island history has not been worked up as it ought to be. Its valuable historical manuscripts have been but partially indexed and the work of classifying, arranging and cataloguing its collection is but partially accomplished.

When, in 1872, the first number of the society's "Proceedings" was issued from the press, eighty-one names were on its membership list. On its last membership list (1896) are 372 names, of which fifty-six are life members and 316 active members. Life members pay \$50 each and are thus saved from other taxation. Active members pay an annual tax of \$3.00.

All, except delinquent tax payers, receive without additional expense, the quarterly publication of the society. They are entitled to the privileges of a valuable historical, genealogical and statistical library and of listening to a series of historical lectures. Associated together for the express purpose of pursuing historical and genealogical studies and of promoting the cause of Rhode Island history, they may well take pride in making their contribution and exerting their quota of influence in favor of family, State and National history.

The depleted condition of the treasury shows that the liberal policy that has been inaugurated cannot be sustained without some well-devised financial scheme. Either our membership list must be enlarged, our tax increased or some other feasible plan adopted. Most of the efficient historical societies of the country have an annual tax of at least \$5, and their members pay, in addition to their tax, the regular subscription price of their publication, while our members pay only \$3 for both tax and publication.

It is to be hoped that the combined effort endorsed by the foregoing article from the *Providence Journal* for carrying

forward the work of indexing valuable historical manuscripts may yet be attended with success, and that such other work may be pushed forward as will result in making Rhode Island history better understood among its citizens and throughout the country.

A MERITED HONOR.

At its commencement in June last, Trinity College, at Hartford, Conn., conferred on the Hon. Horatio Rogers, late president of this society and one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, the honorary degree of LL. D., a compliment that is appreciated by the many friends of Judge Rogers in this society and throughout our State.

Several valuable gifts have been made to the library of the society during the last three months. These have been duly acknowledged and special mention of them will appear in the next annual report of the librarian.

THE GREAT RICKS.

The following is the copy of a paper that has been lately given to this library by Mr. Henry L. Dempsey, a member of this society, who has a decided interest in the early history of our State, and has collected many documents that illustrate it.

To the Honourable Richard Fenner and Edward Arnold Trustees for the Letting out of the banke money in the Town of Providence &c these may Serue to Sertify you that we the Subscribers are of opinion that the Tract of Land lying between the hill of Ricks called the great Ricks and Ranoles his valley: Now belonging to Nathaniel Jencks Ebenezer Jencks Jonathan Jencks and John Jencks: now in Seuerelty as may appeare by the plan or Mape there of, is all and Each part there of worth Three pounds Pr acre
Sep^t the 17th: 1749

William Jencks
Samuel Bagley

Mr. Dempsey does not know where "the hill of Ricks called the Great Ricks" is. Can any reader furnish this

information? What is meant by "*the banke money in the Town of Providence*" in 1749? Was there then a bank in Providence?

THE MOSES BROWN PAPERS.

The series of manuscripts called the Moses Brown Papers consist of eighteen folio volumes. The manuscripts of the first fourteen volumes are arranged in chronological order, and these volumes have been indexed. The date of the contents of each volume is indicated on the back of the volume. The second series of these papers consists of three volumes, that are styled *Miscellaneous*, and are so labeled. These have not yet been indexed. The first seventeen volumes are uniformly bound. The eighteenth volume has been made up within a brief period. It consists of manuscripts of different kinds that have been collected from various sources. The volume is entitled Genealogical Papers, because it consists largely of brief genealogical sketches of the old families of these Plantations. The fact that no good table of contents has been made out, and no index prepared, has prevented this volume's being much consulted by genealogical students.

WILLIAM HARRIS CAPTIVITY LETTERS.

Have the William Harris Captivity letters ever been published? Where are the originals? I have certified copies of them by Andrew Harris.

ROBERT HARRIS, Pomfret, Conn.

The editor is informed that Mr. Sidney S. Rider has the originals.

THE PAWTUXET RANGERS.

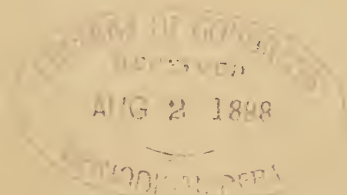
Many diligent researches have been made during the last year to find the rolls of the Pawtuxet Rangers. This was a military company that did good service during the Revolutionary War. It was chartered in 1774. The researches have all been made by persons whose ancestors were in some way connected with that patriotic band, whose history may be gleaned from manuscripts in this library. It is suggested that a plan be laid for the performance of such work as is here needed, either by members of this society or by a clerical force therefor.

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The quarterly publication is issued on the first of April, July, October and January. Life members, together with active members who have paid their taxes for the current year, are entitled to this publication.

Subscription, \$1.00 a year ; single copies, 50 cents.

[CONTINUED FROM VOL. IV., NO. 3, p. 170.]

Town's order they had not to doe to rate, some being not freemen, some widdows, & some other. Voted by y^e towne, that no person or persons whatsoever, shall be rated to pay Sergeant's wages or house-rent, that are not freemen of this towne, or have paid their equal proportion to each of them or any of them that they have paid: any order to y^e contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding."*

SOME FRAGMENTS ILLUSTRATING THE GROWTH OF THE TOWN
UNDER THE RULE OF THE OLD PROPRIETARY MEETINGS.

December 28, 1681. "Voated by ye Towne that there be a sufficient highway kept for ye Towne's use, of 3 poles wide from ye towne streete to ye waterside, that ye Towne if they see cause, may set up a warfe at the end of it, in the most convenient place that may be, and in order thereunto, the two surveyors & Thomas ffield are appointed to state the place & lay it out, and make return to ye Towne Meeting, ye next Quarter day or as soon as they can doe it." This was by the town, but it needed the assent of the Proprietors before any of their own land could be taken. This was a local improvement designed to give access to the "meadows of Weybossett." The "warfe and ferry" long preceded the bridge. The ferry-boats plied between the "towne streete and Weybossett Street;" all the intervening distance has been filled up in modern times. The Proprietors had land enough yet undivided and unimproved on the west side of the river, but let them have the credit of this bit of enterprise.

Under the narrow and rigid rule of a society like this, enterprise became impossible. If any of the young men were infected with it, their only resource was to seek a habitation elsewhere. There was no reason why Providence should not have found in the fisheries and in navigation greater diversity of occupation and breadth of ideas. Its maritime advantages were equal to those of Salem, of New-

*Any consideration of this subject would occupy too large a space and lead us too far from our present subject.

buryport, or of New London, all active in nautical adventure from the beginning ; but at the close of the seventeenth century, when the town had some fourteen hundred inhabitants, there was not among them the owner of a single sea-going vessel. The proprietary estate had been in many ways a heavy burden. The sons of those who had rejected the enlightened project of Williams, now began to perceive that they had only postponed the day of their own prosperity. As they rid themselves of swamp and meadow, rocky and upland, the townsmen began to study the resources of the Bay. For sixty years few had joined them but beside occasional purchasers of small farms. Such was the only property offered in the market of Providence. After Philip's war, some saw there were other and better things within their reach than the Indian liquor trade, so vigorously denounced by Williams. It was in the power of the townsmen to encourage other forms of industry, by promoting iron-works, and the production of naval stores. But the older generation still desired none of these things, and consulted only what they conceived to be their own interests, by sales to approved emigrants, or by dividends of lots among themselves.* Their policy was uniform and consistent. So late as 1662, the town meeting had ordered that, "no person whatsoever, whether townsmen or other shall carry or cause to be carried either directly or indirectly off the Commons any fencing stuff, butts, pipe-staves, *clayboards (sic)*, shingles, pitch-lights, or any other sort of building timber out of this Plantation, without leave of the town ;" and a heavy penalty was provided for the transgressor. This was a virtual prohibition of shipbuilding. The first Proprietors — all farmers — had no desire to encourage the foreign or even the coasting trade. So it was still. Twenty years later they adhered to the same policy. Gabriel Bernon, a shipowner and merchant, proposing to set up the manufacture of naval stores, desired for that purpose a lease

*The Proprietors *sold* lots to their own members on the same terms as to others, but when the lots were *given freely*, it was always by an equal dividend to each one of them. This had been an old custom. It was re-affirmed by the Proprietors on the 6th of March, 1693-4. They then voted that no individual Proprietor should have any land laid out for himself, but that an equal allotment should be made to all.

of pine woods near Pawtucket. In that age of maritime adventure and war, Boston men were growing rich by shipment of masts, spars, tar, and turpentine to England. Why should not Providence have a share in the profit? But the Proprietors in control of the town meeting peremptorily refused the request. 'This was their resolution on January 27, 1703-4 : "Whereas Mr. Gabriel Bernon exhibited a bill desiring of this Towne to grant him the use of all the pine trees on the black hill, & from thence to Pawtucket River, within our Plantation, to leake them and make pitch of the turpentine, & also grant him 20 acres of land near that place. The Towne did not see cause to grant the bill."

They were not all equally narrow in their views, and some of the younger Proprietors occasionally joined with the freeholders in thwarting their associates. But still the older Proprietors maintained their authority, while the influence of the seventeenth century ruled the town. There were occasional signs that a new generation was growing up.

As the ordinary freeholders increased in numbers, they made new aggressions upon the lands of the Proprietors west of the seven-mile line. The number of Proprietors was still limited to 101, and their means of self-protection did not improve. They built no houses, made no leases, gave no sites to the town, and derived their income only from their sales. This age has been accustomed to regard its small landholders as a conservative body. It was not so in New England in the seventeenth century, as it is not in Old England of the nineteenth. Some of these saw that if Providence hoped to gain any rank among the New England towns, it must find some other occupation besides that of quarreling over its land titles. As the old generation slowly disappeared, whose names ever are associated chiefly with these local strifes, topics appear in the town meeting book which had found no mention in former days. It is only from fragments like these that the history of the Proprietors can be traced, when the writings of Fox and Williams aid us no more.

During their earlier years the Proprietors gave little of their estate to any purposes of public benefit. The first of

these was the Town Mill, which, however, was a necessity of their own as well as of the freemen at large. They made no improvements and gave no aid to those who would make them, even though it might promote the increase of the town. In order to promote decorum in public meetings, Williams had desired to separate the town meeting from the tavern which had been its only shelter. To this end, he offered to make a contract with the town to erect a building of convenient size. His project was for a time entertained, but, through what influences we know not, before it could be effected, the Proprietors or town meeting discharged and released him from his undertaking without coöperation or thanks. (See January, 1666, Early Records of Providence, Vol. III., p. 92.) They gave no aid to this useful design either of lots or timber, and it was not revived during sixty years. In 1695-6, Quarter day, January 27th, some of the more enlightened inhabitants asked of the town meeting a "spot of land," as they called it, "to set a schoolhouse on," about the highway called Dexter's Lane, or about Stamper's Hill. The Proprietors authorized them to take forty feet square, but offered no building material, which would have been more valuable, and left the benevolent projectors to accomplish the work as they might. They were not successful. The fathers of the town never perceived that small gifts from their estate would have increased the value of the whole domain. They gave no aid of lots or timber for the building of wharves or bridges or public works, nor allowed any one to fell trees for such uses. They waited for other men's improvements to make their own estate more valuable, while it was still exempted from the taxes which were borne by the rest of the community. Long after the beginning of the eighteenth century, so long as they met with the town meeting, at which they wielded the power of the town, they denied residence in it to every one who did not please their fancy. One or two examples may suffice: "At a Town Meeting, Quarter day, October 27, 1705, Thomas Olney, Moderator, Samuel Mead desired of the town to accommodate him with 'forty or fifty acres of land, or what they see cause.' The Purchasers & Proprietors having considered his bill, do not see

cause to accommodate him with any land." "Samuel Ralph having desired for an accommodation of lands, but the Proprietors do not see cause to grant it." It might be thought that one who offered to buy or to cultivate fifty acres of wild land was not a useless or undesirable citizen, but in many such cases the application was rejected, apparently, for no better reason than personal dislike. [Those who would become inhabitants of the Plantations were still forced to buy land directly from the Proprietors. This alone gave them a foothold. The freemen who had already bought, seldom sold their homesteads in those days. The greater number of recorded sales were still directly from the Proprietors. The deeds were still returned by the Proprietors' surveyors and "confirmed" by the town meeting, before they could be recorded.]

The generation then living (1702) were a little more liberal. April 27, Quarter day, twenty acres were granted, but for life only, to John Tabor, "on account of the burning of his house & goods." He was an ancient inhabitant, is mentioned with respect, and was in danger of becoming a charge upon the town. But such displays of generosity were infrequent. Now that in a new generation a demand for town lots had sprung up, though it was but small, the private meetings of the purchasers and proprietors became more frequent. These were appointed at other times than those of the regular town meetings, and were only for the purpose of considering matters relating to lands. (See January 27, 1693-4.) The Proprietors had many questions before them which do not vex citizens of modern days. They enquired not merely as to the solvency of the buyer, but as to his fitness for becoming an inhabitant of the town. Such doubts were not always solved without difference of opinion and debate.

Sixth March, 1693-4. "It is ordered that after the last day of April next at the first opportunity convenient, the Purchasers' surveyor may proceed to lay out the land on the west side of the seven-mile line, 150 acres to each right, giving notice of the same, that each person may repayre to take his turne," "according to his draught or lott." Arthur ffenner had become impatient of the chances of the proceed-

ings, and laid out land for himself. His acts were adjudged to be illegal. This dividend was ordered privately, and without consultation with the town meeting. Sales of town lots were frequent during this year. Whoever has any curiosity respecting the dividend of this year, may find the order of the Proprietors respecting it, in the records of December 28, 1694. The town was not yet very prosperous, and it was necessary to give some encouragement to craftsmen.* April 27, 1696. Thomas Olney, Moderator. . . "It is granted unto Joseph Goldsmith at his request, that he may have liberty to set up a smith's shop upon the common between Thomas Harris, his lott, and Samuel Whipple's house, provided he damnifieth not the highway." This was in the part of the town street, now called "Constitution Hill." We have many illustrations from the records that the townsmen of those days were not so delicate in their sensibility to annoyance by sights or sounds or odors as their descendants in our day. We have now sufficient evidence of the new direction in which young ambition was seeking success. April 27, 1697. Thomas Olney, Moderator. . . "Whereas Arthur ffenner hath desired ye grant of a ninety foot lott on Waybossett side, near Muddy bridge, the Towne have considered his request & doe conclude that each Proprietor ought to be equal in those sort of lotts, according to proportion, & therefore doe defer ye matter to farther consideration & a way may be so considered & ordered that each Proprietor be so accommodated, there being several bills before depending for a way for like grants." The old practice was becoming burdensome. An enterprising Proprietor who wished to undertake some mercantile business must first assume the labor of procuring a general dividend, and still be uncertain whether he should draw the lot which he wanted, or that the Proprietor who had drawn it would sell it to him. Arthur ffenner had renewed the old agitation. On the 7th of February, 1697-8, a committee was appointed for a grant of "forty-foot lotts, called warehouse lotts." On the 7th of Feb-

*Had there been much demand for mechanical labor, the artificers would have come without encouragement.

ruary, 1697-8, it was ordered that the Purchasers and Proprietors meet together on the 10th of March to consider of a division of land on the seven-mile line, and to take order for effecting the same. "10th of March. Ordered that each person who shall have right to land on ye west side of ye seven-mile line, pay in 1 shilling for running ye western line of our Plantation, before he shall have any land laid out on ye west side of ye 7 mile line." The population was still so scattered that the boundary was not well marked and needed renewal. It seems that the old Proprietors were not always more prompt in their payments than some of their posterity have been, and that they sometimes needed to be sharply reminded of the fact.

When lots were wanted for some use deemed public, the town meeting, disregarding the old law, now began to help themselves out of the Proprietors' estate, and to be charitable at their expense. Sometimes they still permitted an influential citizen to exchange his lot for a better one. We have already remarked upon the want of any constitutional protection to property in those days, and the Proprietors, so long as their lots were still numerous, were careful not to risk their popularity by refusal of a favor. A few examples will suffice: July 27, 1699. "Whereas J. Olney hath this day desired of the Towne to accommodate him with a lot, forty foote square to set a smith's shop upon, & *what other use*, may be made of the same, the Towne having considered the bill, & in consideration that the said *John Olney* hath not land in the town to build upon, and the town being desirous that he should follow his trade of a smith in ye town, doe grant unto the said John Olney that he shall have a forty foote lott in the Western end of the lanc called Dexter's lane, neare about the place where the stocks now stand, and so to be laid out, as it may not damnify the highway." The family took care of their poor relations at the public expense.

In an age of constant war and dread of French invasion, military exercises were everywhere popular. Several training fields were provided out of the proprietary estate, on the west side of the town. These were not very extensive, none of them exceeding three acres in extent. The evolutions

there performed could have caused little alarm to Canada or to France. January 27, 1698-9. The town meeting grants three acres for a training place. July 27, 1699, another training field was established west of the Mooshassuc. The next year saw the most valuable gift as yet made by the Proprietors. It was proposed by Thomas Olney, doubtless with their assent. Let it not detract from their merit and their forecast, that this was the most barren and desolate sandhill in the town; of which no one, during sixty years, had shown any inclination to relieve them. In the month of June, 1700, the North Burying Ground was established. It was to remain in perpetual common for a training field and for the burial of the dead. Notwithstanding their declaration of trust, the town sold a part of the land at the south end of the field, but the city has made a more ample purchase at the north, and its perpetuity is well assured. So conservative were the old townsmen of their primitive custom of sepulture, that little use was made of the new cemetery during twenty years, except for military purposes. Gravestones and monuments of any kind were then so few that it cannot be determined when interment at the "north end" became the usual practice of the town. Many of the old Proprietors have there their resting places—let it preserve a kindly remembrance of one good deed of care and thoughtfulness for those who were to follow them.

The Proprietors' town property was now in some danger of melting away, from the liberal grants of the town meeting. Strangers to their society who sought to enter upon mercantile pursuits which were generally declined by the Proprietors were now presenting petitions for "warehouse lots," by the waterside. There were long rows of these lots as yet unoccupied, in the unnamed swamp, where are now Weybosset and Westminster streets, and on the west side of the town street, opposite to the home lots on the east side. Buyers were impatient of the rule of the Proprietors and the town was standing still. The freeholders now persisted in voting upon all questions relating to the sales of proprietary lands. It was not always easy, in a thinly attended town meeting to determine who the Proprietors were. They might be caught

unawares, when few of their number were present, as no previous notice seems to have been required of a motion to give away or sell one of their lots. By their liberal grants from the "commons," the freemen were threatening the security of estates which the Proprietors would not willingly suffer to pass from their control. It became necessary to divide these among themselves, if they would retain them in any form. In 1697-8, petitions for warehouse lots were becoming frequent and the slow-moving Proprietors would sell only in their own time and way. In that year they divided to each of themselves, a warehouse lot in Waybossett or in the town street. This was not by lottery, but they generally granted to each of their number the water lot opposite his homestead. These were of the width of forty feet, and little forethought or care was shown in leaving alleys between them for future access to the river. These narrow lanes are an inheritance from the old agricultural proprietors. For modern streets we are indebted to the new commercial freemen. The aggressions of this new class of townsmen did not cease, and in 1703-4, February 17th, the Proprietors carried this resolution in the town meeting. It was drawn up in this rasping and peremptory manner, by Thomas Olney, the town clerk. "Whereas several persons have exhibited bills desiring a grant to them of Warehouse lots it hath been considered that the land in this Town belongs to the Purchasers (as to what lies in common undivided), and that those persons who may legally vote in matters as to government may not have to doe to act & voate in the disposition of lands, as it may plainly appear by several passages in our Towne Records. Therefore if they are inclinable to propagate their desire (if they see cause), they may apply themselves to the Purchasers at their meeting." (The original record is in the handwriting of Thomas Olney.) The law which separated these two classes of voters marked also the social distinction which prevailed without complaint or cavil during the colonial time.

In the eighteenth century, now begun, the old "tumults" and "heats" in the town meetings came to an end. The legal *status* of the proprietary corporation was now everywhere

recognized. It had only to fear the depredations of secret plunderers, who, in the absence of a police, were not easily restrained.* So late as February, 1715, the swine of the freeholders ran riot in the wood lands, which in their unenclosed condition seemed to invite attack.†

The thatch beds of coarse reedy grass, growing about the cove and along the Wonasquatucket, were, from an early period, regarded as a valuable possession by the Proprietors, and by the town. Each party had beds exclusively its own, which it guarded with jealous care.‡ In July, 1685, there had been farther efforts by the town meeting to prevent cutting the grass by any but those who were authorized by the respective owners. As the town grew larger, and the modest dwellings of those days more numerous, the loss was sensibly felt by the treasuries of both town and proprietary. The following vote (July 27, 1704), shows something of their mutual relations, at least as respected one not unimportant source of revenue. "Whereas, by several persons of this town there hath been this day, a bill exhibited to the purchasers, now met, that by them care might be taken for the orderly cutting of the thatch-grass on the thatch-beds which are within our township of Providence, so that each *Purchaser & Proprietor* in the commons belonging to & in said Township may have his proportion of the said thatch-grass according to his proportion of comon which he hath within said township, & not for those who have a smaller or lesser part or right in the comon to deprive these, of those just parts of the said thatch-grass who have a greater & more full right to ye said comons, but such purchaser or proprietor may have of the said thatch-grass proportionable according unto what his right of comon is; therefore for the propagation thereof, the Purchasers now met doe order & appoint Mr. Joseph Williams, Major John

*February 26, 1710-11. Swine were to be restrained from going on the commons without yoakes and rings.

†May 22, 1710. "Ordered that no goates shall be left to goe at liberty on ye common, but shall be confined within their owners' land." (So also of horses.) The number of such "voates" proves that they were not enforced.

‡July 17, 1682, a fine of ten shillings was imposed upon every one who cut the thatch-beds without authority.

Dexter & Captain Thomas ffenner, to draw up in writing, some method & way how & in what order, the matter premised may suitably be affected and to propose it to the purchasers at their meeting on Monday the 14th of August next. In order thereunto, it is hereby ordered that the Purchasers shall meet together on Monday the 14th day of August next."* On the same day order was taken for the building of a "bridge from the Town side of the salt water in Providence Towne, adjoining against the west end of the lott where Daniell Abbott his dwelling house standeth, & so across the water unto the hill called Weybossett Hill." A committee was appointed to solicit contributions from the principal inhabitants. Like most attempts to raise money for public works by voluntary contribution, this one met with no success. The Proprietors offered neither lots nor timber, and the people waited patiently during several years to come. (The first bridge extended from the "Towne Streete," to the present opening of Weybosset Street, and the successive bridges have been shortened with the gradual filling up of the river.)

The prosperity of the Proprietors was probably not much diminished by the depredations of swine and goats. But as time went on there were new and more serious causes of apprehension. During sixty years they had been occasional sellers of small parcels of swamp and meadow. They were now the chief holders of town lots, and many freemen who were not of their society were anxious to procure homesteads for themselves and for their friends. The town was enlarging its borders. The hundred and one Proprietors had long ceased to be the majority of the town meeting, and the admonitions of Thomas Olney, that the freemen who were not of their number had no right to vote away the domain of the Proprietors, were failing of their effect. These were unwilling to provoke the resentment of the freemen, who had learned the power which the old institutions of the town gave

*It is to be feared that the limited skill and eloquence of Major Dexter and Captain ffenner were unable to restrain the householders, whose humble dwellings were in need of new roofs, from helping themselves to this spontaneous product of the earth, wherever they might find it.

them. The old law by which all deeds were invalid until they had been approved by the town meeting, was still in force. If the Proprietors were not as liberal in their gifts of lots as the popular majority desired, it was in the power of the town meeting to delay or prevent all their dividends and sales. This had been done in one instance where they had prevented a division during nearly two years, by refusing to record the deeds. The society was not desirous of any renewal of the strife. But such votes as the following were becoming rather too frequent: "On the Town's Quarter day, Thursday, January 27, 1703-4, Thomas Olney, Moderator . . . A lot forty feet square was granted to William Edmunds to set a blacksmith shop on it, within the space of one year from this day, the which if he fails of so doing, then the said piece of land shall return again to the Towne." This lot lay between the lands of Joseph Whipple, half-way up what is now "Constitution Hill," and the "prison-house," at the head of it. On the same day a lot forty feet square was granted by the *Town Meeting* to William Smith for a weaver's shop. The conditions were the same, to build within a year, and to follow his trade. Such votes savoured too much of the communistic theories of modern days. This was a cheap and easy method of being charitable at the expense of other people, and the resort to it was becoming more frequent. The admonition of Thomas Olney produced no effect, and in a few years the danger became threatening.

The Proprietors still clung tenaciously to their old agricultural pursuits and habits, and did not welcome the new age which was coming in. The wilderness beyond the "seven-mile line" was yielding to the axe and plough, and already afforded some little trade to the town street. It was now sought, not so much to prevent the sale of timber as to confine it as a monopoly to its chief owners.* As the Proprie-

*February ye 6th, 1709-10. . . "It is ordered that no strangers nor any other person who is not interested in ye Common of our Plantation, of *his own right*, shall cut down, carry away, or make improvement of, any cedar or pine timber, or any other sort of Timber in our Township, or its Comon, unless they have grant from ye *body* of ye purchasers & proprietors; and if any shall presume to act contrary to this order, they

tors neither built nor improved nor enclosed, most of their corporate property outside the "town streete" had grown up into woodland. They were the chief holders of timber lands of which they desired to make some advantage in the age of navigation which was before them. The freemen showed little inclination to aid the Proprietors in guarding their estate, and as the younger and more active citizens they had learned some political devices which would have done no discredit to a later day. Thus, the Proprietors appointed a private meeting of their own, at an early hour in the morning, to make arrangements for acting in concert in the town meeting of that day. The younger men, it seems, were earlier risers than their elders, and thus thwarted their design. "At a Towne Meeting, June ye 6th, 1709. . . . The Meeting is adjourned to ye 9th instant in ye morning, before the Purchasers meeting begins."*

While the Proprietors' estate lasted, the thatch-beds were a continual source of annoyance as well as profit, and the association endeavored to rid itself of them, as they had done with the farm lands beyond the seven-mile line. This is an extract from a resolution of July 27th, 1706: "Ordered that every particular share of said thatch-bed shall be divided out to each person who are proprietors, according to their proportion, between this day and the first of May next ensuing, and each person to pay his share of money for the *dividing*,† before he receiveth his (part?). This part of the thatch-beds—that beyond the cove—seems to have given no farther trouble. A single owner could watch his own portion far more effectively than a committee or the agents of the Proprietors could keep guard over the whole.

But the old vexations remained. Few would trouble themselves to make, still less to enforce, laws intended solely for shall be liable to be dealt withall in a due course of law by legal prosecution. Neither shall any person who is interested in the commons of our towne, grant leave to any stranger or give to act with any ye timber on ye towne's Commons, as aforesaid unless it be with ye consent of ye body of ye said Purchasers & Proprietors."

*Eight o'clock, A. M. was not an unusual hour for the town meeting.

†This payment was for surveyors and other expenses. They had nothing to pay for the land itself.

the benefit of the Proprietors' estate. The ravages of swine (see for example January 27, 1712) upon the unenclosed commons were again before the town meeting. The Proprietors were now a hopeless minority. They were chiefly residents of the "compact part of the town," while the freemen, their old enemies, controlled the remainder. They could now expect little from the town meeting, and could only stand on the defensive and protect themselves. They hesitated long. Thomas Olney, the second of the name, had spent all his best years in the office of town clerk. He was the depository of the town's traditions, and knew all its land titles and its local history. He was in all things a lover and a preserver of things gone by. He had lived through its controversies and its disasters, and had learned sufficient law to guard it against serious mistakes.* He remembered the time when his father, Thomas Olney, and his proprietary brethren had been the whole town meeting. His own life had been spent in the support of their interests while they were a declining minority in numbers, and now through his sagacious purchases he was probably the wealthiest among them. He could not endure any radical change in the Proprietors' relations with their fellow-townsmen, although he knew that their political ascendancy had hopelessly gone by. Such was his authority among them while he lived, that no separation could be accomplished. When he was laid to rest in the quiet of his "home lot," on the hill side, his surviving brethren yielded to a necessity which he could not or would not see. In 1718 (the precise date cannot now be ascertained), the Proprietors withdrew their affairs from the cognizance and control of the town meeting. The landed corporation now elected its own clerk and began its own series of records, by which they hoped to secure their property and perpetuate the memory of their acts.† In what form their withdrawal was signified we know not, for nothing respecting it appears upon the town book. After using the town's machinery

*In his last will he mentions "my law book called Coke upon Littleton," which had been a gift from William Harris.

†They probably believed that they could thus escape the effect of the town law which subjected all deeds to a vote of approval by the town meeting, before they could be entered upon the town records.

for their own interests, during nearly fourscore years, they parted with this curt and summary intimation that they needed it no longer. Thenceforth they set up for themselves, as a private land company.

It may surprise one who remembers their incorporation under the act of 1682, that no doubt or question was suggested as to their legal right to do this. The imbecility of the Colonial Courts of Rhode Island was never more signally manifested. But no one knew law enough in those days to make any objections. The courts were merely popular assemblages, with judges not better informed than their neighbors. The utmost which could now be feared was a hot dispute in the town meeting. The Proprietors knew well with whom they were dealing and no ill consequences followed.*

Their position after the separation from the town meeting was better than ever before. The town had not hesitated when it served its purpose to use their land as a charitable fund. But they could not transfer the lot of one private owner to another, and these aggression and gifts by the town meeting, once frequent, now came to an end. As Judge Staples has observed, the Proprietors never objected to the town's taking to itself a lot which was needed for public uses, whether permanent or transitory. Far on in the last century, the town had little corporate property of its own, excepting its bridges and wharf and a small school house — holding its public meetings at the chief inns. Its public functionaries, the town clerk, treasurer, &c., kept their offices and papers in their own houses, to the great detriment of the public archives. A temporary hospital was a sufficient provision for occasional visitations of yellow fever or small pox. The public demand for such sites was infrequent, and it was but a trifling burden on the liberality of the corporation. It was a gain to the Proprietors if the town took one of their lots and improved it, and thus made their other estates more valuable. They made no objections or claims for compensation when lands were taken for roads; for the

*The Legislature would do nothing for Providence. The town was always unpopular, and its town meetings and its parties had little to hope for from the General Assembly.

ferry at "Narrow passage," where is now "Red Bridge;" for the "pest house," as they called it; the schools, the jail house, the town wharf, the market place; the dock or "wharffe," whereon stands the old City Hall. (The prison lot, now the site of the police office, was given by the Proprietors of Providence in 1753,—west of the Court House and adjoining the cove. The jail was erected by the colony on the west end of this lot and partly over the water. See "Staples's Annals," pp. 180, 201.) On the other hand, the Proprietors never built or enclosed, or incurred any expense whatsoever. The town meeting caused but little detriment to the Proprietors, for the old townsmen were to the last degree frugal in their taxation and expenditure.

With this new organization, all continuous history of the Proprietors comes to a sudden close. Through whose fault or negligence I know not, their records have utterly perished, not a fragment surviving to the present day. They preserved many illustrations of Colonial usages and ways of life, which gained in interest for the antiquary, long after they ceased to be of value to the conveyancer. Nothing remains from which to prepare a narrative of the decay and extinction of the once powerful society. The records of its old adversary, the town meeting, preserve occasional reference to its acts. These, however, are not many. The Proprietors, as their strength decayed, carefully avoided conflict, still more, collision with the town, especially such as might provoke aggression or illwill. They ordered their sales after their old ways and methods, living prudently upon a capital now augmenting in value, but of which one or two generations would see the end. (See "Staples's Annals," p. 36.) In 1718, another dividend was made, after the old fashion. One hundred and one house lots upon the southerly and easterly sides of what is now called Weybosset Street, and on the west side of the "towne streete," extending northwardly beyond the site of the late "Canal Market," and on the south side of "Olney's Lane," were distributed, one to each Proprietor's share. All these lots seem to have been accounted as of equal value. The centre of the town was then at the north end, near the Town Mill and the bridge at Wapwaysett, now

Randall Street. The land on the west side of the "towne streete," north of "Mile-end Cove," was platted and divided into "warehouse lots." In most cases, these were sold by the Proprietors to the owners of the houses opposite, on the east side of the street. Other lots were sold freely to such as desired them. Sometimes a dividend was made to each "purchase right," or share. The site of his lot was left to each Proprietor to choose for himself. As of old, it was then surveyed by the Proprietors' surveyor, allowed by the Proprietors and recorded by the Proprietors' clerk. Many of those who bought from them, did not regard their records as a sufficient security, and caused their deeds to be again recorded in the books of the town clerk. Through sales and dividends, most of the lots upon the chief thoroughfares now passed into private ownership. But so late as June 6th, 1757, it is mentioned, with apparent dissatisfaction, in the town records, that very much land in Providence Neck was still unenclosed and unsold.

The association had now entered upon its best and most prosperous days. During the third decade of the last century, the nominal price of a lot in or near the towne street, was £30 or £32; as large a nominal sum as Williams had received for the whole purchase, a century before. The commercial period of the town had begun. Houses of two stories in height were now everywhere superseding the humble dwellings of the primitive land owners, and Spanish sugars, wines and cloths from the West Indies and the Spanish main were offered in the shops of the town street.

The Proprietors were still the chief land owners and their title deeds the most numerous. During the first half of the last century, a "Proprietor's share" seems to have been one of the most valuable inheritances in Providence, its capacity for yielding nourishment being far from exhausted. With the old generations old controversies had passed away. A new cause of irritation from without had united the Proprietors and the freeholders. The new freemen, beyond the "seven-mile line,"—the successors of the "25 acre men" of former days,—kept alive their old griefs and avenged them upon the men of the town street—Proprietors and free-

holders alike. The commercial interests of the town now formed a compact union to oppose the issue of illimitable reams of paper money, by which the country party sought to relieve its own improvidence and insolvency at the expense of the honor and credit of the colony. The real money—so much as there was of it—was in the “compact part of Providence Town,” and the country sought, with too much success, to thrust its own burdens upon its old enemies.

During many years the never-failing topic of the thatch beds near the cove and the river valleys was the chief point of contact of the Proprietors with the town meeting. This coarse, reedy grass always yielded some revenue, and was of some interest to that economical assembly. Some of those thatch beds had been claimed by the town and had been yielded to it by the Proprietors, and so in other years, but when or how, cannot now be ascertained. During the last century their rental or income had a conspicuous place in the town's accounts. Thus: 30th of August, 1748. “It is voated & ordered that Richard Waterman, Town Clark, do let, & lease out the Town's lands, at the place called the Grate Point in Providence, to the highest bidder, for the space of seven years, & that he sign & execute a lease to such persons as he shall agree with, and that he sign such lease on behalf of the Town.” Last Tuesday of August, 1769: “The thatch at the Great Point & high bank, sold to James Angell for twenty four shillings lawful money.” 1767, 6th of July: “The thatch belonging to the Town, sold this day in open Town Meeting to Knight Dexter for £65, old tenor.”

There are not many now remaining among us who remember the old “Grate Poynt.” It was a long and not unpicturesque “cape,” as the boys called it who flocked thither, fresh from their geographies, for their daily swim after school hours. The “cape” projected into the cove in a southerly direction, and was still overgrown with the ancient thatch grass. The water was clear and pure, and afforded to a long succession of school boys our first lessons in aquatic exercises. The “cape” disappeared when so large a portion of the cove was filled up for the building of the Worcester Railroad, 1843-44.

The thatch beds had their historical associations. They were the last remnant of the reserve for which Williams fought so stout a battle. With the separation of the proprietorship from the town meeting came the end of the "reservation" which he had fondly hoped would be a refuge for persons "distressed for conscience." We have seen that though the early Proprietors assented to a reservation for the use of the townsmen, they would never consent to its appropriation to any particular class, and never gave to Williams or Clarke authority to make such an offer in England. (See Town Meeting Records, Vol. IX., p. 278.) It appeared by the Proprietors' Records, that in 1658 a tract of land containing a thousand acres or more "was stated perpetually to be & lie in common," embracing a large part of what is now North Providence and terminating with the hill north of the cove and Great Point. This order was lost or it miscarried because of the Indian War. The Proprietors' meeting on the 2d day of December, 1685: "In view of the necessity of some lands perpetually to be & lie in common, near unto our Town, for the use and benefit of the *inhabitants*, enacted & ordered, that all the tract mentioned afore, which was then in common, should forever remain & be in common, & that all parts of said tract which were then taken up by any person which should at any time be laid down to common, should continually so remain;" which order was declared "irreversible without the full & unanimous consent of the whole number of the Purchasers."* It appeared by the Proprietors' records that, notwithstanding this order, at a Proprietors' meeting, 13th March, 1724, a committee was appointed by the Proprietors to divide the said stated common among the Proprietors themselves. This committee wasted no time, and on the 15th of June, reported a division and a plat. This plat was accepted, allowed and confirmed by a clear vote and lots drawn for the different shares. Upon the examination of this plat there appeared to have been left a small piece of land (the southern and eastern extremities of Great Point) undivided, of which the town kept possession as part of the

*This was a very common formula in those days and not very much regarded.

common stated in 1658, until the year 1747, leasing it and receiving the rents, issues and profits. On the 18th of May, 1747, a vote was passed by the Proprietors for the sale of this land, and a committee was appointed who sold it to Noah Whipple for £57, old tenor. It appears (Town Records Vol. IX., p. 279) that at the next term of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas for the County of Providence, an action of trespass and ejectment was brought by Noah Whipple against John Whipple, then in possession as lessee of the town, by lease dated 29th of January, 1740-1. There was a verdict for the defendant on a plea of possession. The plaintiff did not enter or prosecute any appeal. From that time until 1821 it appears from the votes of the town and from the conveyances of adjoining lands, that the town are the owners of a piece of land situate at that place. This is a specimen of the confusion which existed in divers places as to the town's and the Proprietors' property. It was due to the ignorance of both bench and bar in those days. When any such matter came to a practical issue, the Proprietors generally had the worst of it. The exact quantity of the above tract the town's committee in 1823 could not ascertain. But it appears that the town had a right to about five acres. The heirs of Nathaniel Smith of Providence were in possession of part of the said five acres, being about one and three-quarters, and the heirs of John Brown claim two acres. Said Smith and Brown and their grantees had been in possession of the said lands for a long time previous. The value of the land is not sufficient to warrant a suit for its recovery by law. (From a report of a committee appointed by the town meeting, August, 1823—Vol. IX., Town Meeting Records, pp. 279-80—to examine the title to the thatch beds belonging to the town.) The late Judge Staples was one of that committee. He was the Proprietors' clerk and furnished the extract, one of the very few which remain, from their book of records. One and one-quarter acres were all that was left undisputed. Thus ended a far-sighted project for the public good, which Williams had conceived with perhaps not well-considered benevolence, and which the first generation of Proprietors had left as their chief contribution

to the charities of the town. Whatever hopes there may have been of parks or pleasure grounds, or gifts to public utility, have long since faded away. (See Town Records, Vol. IX., p. 265; see Book of Plats, Weybosset Street to the water.)

The third generation of Proprietors divided all into small allotments for themselves. They were suffered to do as they pleased, with but little dissent, as the wealthy landholders of those days generally were. They probably wondered at the enmity which they sometimes excited.

This is the last dividend of which any record remains. The courts of that day knew nothing of trusts or of the manner of enforcing their execution. Through their ignorance this poor remnant was all which remained of the liberal reservation by the first Proprietors for the benefit of the town which they had planted.

Their history has few more recorded incidents. Other interests had superseded theirs in the regard of a new generation. From 1730 to 1760 their sales were frequent and profitable. A "Proprietors' share" was still one of the best inheritances in the Plantations. Descendants of Browns, Arnolds, Olneys, Angells and Watermans, found, year by year, new reasons for blessing the memory of their exiled ancestors, and were consoled for their fathers' sufferings by substantial dividends from their estates. The seven-years' war (1756-1763), like most others, created an artificial prosperity. It crowded the wharves of Providence with prizes taken by privateers, and the temporary excitement caused some demand for house lots in a day in which nothing was known of bonds or shares. This was followed by the usual torpor and stagnation. The Revolution paralyzed commerce. According to the late Mr. Howland, not a single house was built here during seven years. As the years went on, the lessening number of their deeds, and the more obscure character of the property conveyed, indicated that their capital was wasting away. Their conveyances, which filled so large a space in the earlier volumes of the town records, now become comparatively few, and at the end of the century almost disappeared. After the revival of the commerce of the town, with the wars of the French Republic and Empire, an occasional deed may be

found on record, but the corporation of Proprietors was the great landholder no longer. Young men of a new generation — the last which had any participation in their affairs — were now coming into public life. One of these was the late Governor Philip Allen. He represented a Proprietors' share, which had long been held by his family. He was fond of local history and carefully preserved its details. He attended the meetings of the Proprietors until the last. The business of the society steadily decreased, and they made up for its comparative unimportance by the time which they occupied in doing it. There came to their assemblies men whose births had been registered in the early decades of the last century. These brought their recollections of old events, customs and traditions, and who gave their youthful memories of ancient men who in their own early days had seen Williams, Harris, and the patriarchs of the town. The old corporation had as much the appearance of an antiquarian or historical society as of an assembly for business. When the colonial generation had passed away, the periodical meetings had little value or interest for the younger members, who had active employment of their own. They were still held, but the life of the society was ended. There was still some remnant of its old prestige. So late as 1815 it had still sufficient vitality to maintain its right against the town in its share of the ancient thatch beds. (Town Meeting Records, Vol. VIII., p. 348.) Monday, July 24th, 1815, a committee was appointed to fix the bounds of the thatch beds above Weybosset bridge with those of the Proprietors.

There were possibilities of dormant or contingent rights, which the corporation might assert against the town or against private citizens. Nearly seventy years ago some attempts of this kind were made, chiefly under the direction of Mr. Philip Crapo, then a well-known practitioner at the bar. His claim was, that the town had taken Dorrance Street, or a part of it (formerly called Muddy dock), without compensation to the Proprietors. Other dormant claims to lands which had been appropriated by the town, would have been revived, if this had been successful. But all such hopes proved delusive. Those who remember the late Mr. Crapo, his grotesque

appearance and his peculiar style of oratory, will appreciate the fact that he met with little success in awakening public sympathy for a cause in itself sufficiently unpopular. Courts were not more favorable to it than the public from which the jurors were to be drawn. Soon after the failure of these attempts, the Proprietors' meetings altogether ceased. The last, of which there was any record, was in 1832, and then this ancient chronicle of grievances and hates was finally and forever closed.

The freeholders were now the owners of every valuable acre and waterfall. Little remained which was of sufficient value to justify the expense of litigation. During the earlier years of this century, the Proprietors' plats were in frequent requisition in the law suits about boundaries with their monuments of black-oak trees and heaps of stones of which the rural landholders were so fond. The bounds of the Proprietors' surveyors had lacked every requisite of permanence, while estates had descended from father to son, during several generations. When the original monuments had decayed, the landholders could set their stone walls as they pleased, without consulting the Proprietors, who had no funds to expend upon lawsuits. If any swamp, then regarded as useless, or rocky upland not worth cultivation yet remained unsold, the statute of possession has long ago confirmed the adverse title of its occupants, and the society and its claims are at rest together. It might be difficult to determine when it became extinct. The late Judge Staples was the last holder of the once dignified and influential office of Proprietors' clerk. In his time it had sadly shrunk and shrivelled from its ancient importance. He was little more than a guardian of its records and a preserver of its traditions. During his long professional life he carefully protected its remains. In his "Annals" he made no mention of its faults, and passed over without reference what he could not defend or eulogize. He left no successor. No antiquarian has sought to preserve the memory of the "Proprietors" since he, their last mourner, was borne to the grave.

This is a summary, I hope not an unfair or partial one, of the progress and end of the old "Society of the Proprietors of Providence," its earliest corporation once powerful, but now almost unknown. What good it may have done, I have endeavored to mention in its time and place. The work was not burdensome, for their deeds of benevolence were few and far between. Their public services did not justify their original possession of the entire freehold of the town or their subsequent incorporation by the State (1682). They never rose to the perception that even liberal gifts of their unsold acres to purposes of public utility would have hastened the growth of the "Plantations," and thus have been more profitable than a dividend among themselves. All that they accomplished had been better done by the town itself. Some long-enduring estates grew up to the comfort of private families, but little was done to promote the education or well-being of a community which had begun with no other capital. The one hundred and one had successfully grasped nearly the whole of the original purchase, by which Williams had hoped to supply the want of private wealth. They built no monument to themselves. Whoever passes through our streets to-day, and asks for the memorials of the planters of the town, will find no park or school or structure, or public work, or gift to charity or learning, for which their successors owe any gratitude to them. In the days of their prosperity they forgot to do any thing for the town which they had planted, and it in like manner has forgotten them.

HENRY C. DORR. ✱

THE FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY IN RHODE ISLAND.

In the *American Historical Review* for October, 1896, will be found an article by Dr. Bernard C. Steiner, librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, entitled, "Rev. Thomas Bray and his American Libraries." Dr. Bray, commissary of the clergy of the Established Church in Maryland in the time of William III., interested himself greatly in the promotion of parochial libraries, both in England and in America. Collecting the necessary money, he established many parochial libraries in America, some of which were intended chiefly for the use of the clergy, while others were called "laymen's libraries." While making some researches connected with Dr. Steiner's article, then going through the press, I found among Dr. Bray's manuscripts in the library of Sion College, London, the following lists of books which Dr. Bray sent out to Rhode Island. No doubt this constituted the first public library established within this colony. A public library the collection may properly be called, for although, as will be seen, only a part of the books could be lent to the laity, it was a part of the intention of Dr. Bray that the parochial libraries might, as libraries of reference, be consulted by others than clergymen. Some of these books are now in existence at Newport, I am told. They can in all probability be identified, for it was directed by Dr. Bray that "In every Book, on the one side of the Cover, shall be letter'd these words: *Sub Auspiciis Willielmi III.* on the other side the Name of the Parish to which these Books do belong: ex. gr. *E Bibliotheca de Mary-Town: E Bibliotheca de James-Town, &c.*" The *Annals of Trinity Church*, it should be added, mention, under the year 1709, the existence of a parochial library.

J. F. JAMESON.

A CATALOGUE

of the Books sent to Rhode Island tow^{ds} the Raising a Parochial Library for the Minister there sent the 19th of 8^{ber} 1700 By Mr. Bethune Licens'd to be the Minister of y^t Place.

FOLIOS.

Large Bible.
 Comon Prayer Book.
 Book of Homilies.
 Estius in Epistolas.
 Dr. Jackson's Works 3 Vol.
 Pierson on the Creed.
 First Vol. of Catechetical Lectures.
 Land agst Fisher.
 Sanderson's Sermons.
 Feild of the Church.
 Hooher's Ecclesiastical Polity old Ed.
 Usher's Body of Divinity.
 New Body of Geography.
 Ellies Dupin's Ecclesiastical History of 15 Centuries 5 Vol:
 Dr. Barrow's Works 2 Vol:
 Dawson's Originall Laws.
 Dr. Hammands Annotations upon y^e New Testment.

4^{os}

Cambridge Dictionary.
 Robertson's Lexicon.
 Rogers upon the 39 Articles.
 Patrick upon Genesis.
 - - - Comēntary on Exodus.
 - - - Comēntary upon Leviticus.
 - - - Comēntary upon Numbers.
 - - - Comēntary upon Deuteronomy.
 Satan Disrobed.
 a Religious Conference between a Minister and his Parishioners concerning Baptizing Infants, Sprinkling & Confirming them. And Godfathers & Godmothers.
 Cozin's Scholastical History of the Canon of the Scripture.
 Downam's Doctrine of Prayer.

- A Collection of Articles Canons and Injunctions.
 Snake in the Grass.
 Defence of the Snake.
 5 Discourses by the Author of the Snake in the Grass.
 Dr. Maurice's Defence of Diocessan Episcopacy.
 Patrick's Paraphrase on Job.
 - - - Paraphrase on Proverbs.
 - - - Paraphrase on Eccl. & Canticles.
 Dr. Calamy's Sermons.
 Dr. Payne's Sermons.
 Dr. Stanhope's Sermons.
 Iuelli Apologia Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ.
 Articulorum 39 Defensio.
 Noelli Catechismus.
 Sanderson de Obligatione et Iuramento.
 B'p King's Inventions in the Worship of God. And
 - - Admonition to the Dissenters.
 Mr. Allen's Mistery of Iniquity Unfolded.
 - - Perswasive to Peace and Unity amongst Chr[ist]ians.
 - - State of the Church in future Ages.
 - - Discourse of Humility.
 - - Nature order & Series of Diverse Occurrences.
 - - Discourse of Divine Assistance.
 - - Friendly Address to the Non-Conformists, begining with
 the Ana Baptists 2 Vol:
 B'p Burnet's Pastoral Care.
 Kettlewell's practicall Believer.
 The Compleat Gardiner, or Directions for ordering of Gardens and
 Kitchen Gardens - - - -
 Kettlewel's Measures of Chr[ist]ian Obedience.
 Busbey's Greek Gramar.
 B'p Kenn's Exposition of the Ch. Catechism.
 Dr. Bate's Harmony of the Divine Attributes.
 Cicero de Oratore E Theatro.
 Dorrington's Discourses 2 Vol.
 Heideggeri Enchiridion Biblicum Analyticum.
 Biblia Græca 70 Interpretum Cum N. T. et Liturgia Ecclesiæ Angli-
 canæ, 4 Vol.

The whole Duty of a Christian.
 Kettlewell's worthy Communicant.
 Tables of Marriages.

19th 8^{br} 1700.

Reced then the within menconed

Catalogue of Books.

By me,
 D^d Bethun.

A Catalogue of the Books sent Nov 12th 1701 By M^r Lockier
 to augment the Library at Rode Island in America.

D. Hen: Mori Opera Theologica et Philosophica 3 Vol. folio.
 Apocalyptical Discourses 5 Vol: 4^{to}.
 Disc: on Severall Texts 8.
 Dr. Patrick's Paraphrase on the Pssalms, 2 Vol: 8^o
 Dr. Alix's argument on the Psalmes.
 Dr. Lewis Atterburys Sermons.

Novemb^r 12th 1701.

R^d then the Books immediately above written

by me "
 John Lockier.

A CATALOGUE

of the Bookes sent to Rhode Island for the ffounding a Lay-
 man's Library. The severall Books to be Lent or Given at
 the Discretion of the Minister and Delivered to M^r Bethune
 October the 19th 1700.

Bibles	4.
Pastorall Letters, the 1 st to be given outright	100.
A Serious Exhortation to the Practice of Religious Duties B.	4.
B ^p Kenn's Exposition on the Church Catechism	4.
Whole Duty of a Christian	4.
Lectures on the Preliminary Questions & Answers of the Ch. Cat.	4.
Christian Monitor B.	4.
Dr. Comber on ffervent and ffrequent Prayer B.	4.

Clutterbucks Explanation of the Comon Prayer B . . .	4.
Short Discourses on the Baptismal Covenant . . .	4.
Snake in the Grass	1.
Defence of the Snake	1.
5 Discourses	1.
An Address to the Roman Catholicks B	1.
London Cases Epitomized	1.
B ^p King's Inventions of Men in the Worship [of] God . .	1.

8^{ber} the 19th 1700.

Rec^d then the Catalogue of Books above
mencoed

By Me

D^d Bethun.

THE INDIAN DEED QUESTION.

Mr. Editor:—

The paper that appeared in the October quarterly under the above heading, contains much history of the time when it was written. It gives clear glimpses of matters that were then discussed, and it refers specially to the mutilation of the Indian Deed.

Mr. Rider in his *Book Notes* denies that the paper was written by Howlong Fenner, daughter of William Harris, and attributes it to John Greene, Jr.

The internal evidences of the paper show that it was written by, or was a statement made by, some one who was a child of one of the original purchasers of Providence. From the references in it to William Arnold, William Carpenter, Roger Williams, Ezekiel Holliman and Stukeley Westcott, it is evident that neither of them was the "father" so often mentioned in the paper.

The paper is addressed to the Court to be holden on May 4, 1708, and is an outburst of feeling against "the undermining transactions by those men called Pawtuxet Men." It therefore relates to Pawtuxet Lands.

Throwing out of consideration the five men mentioned above, leaves eight whose connections in 1708, through their heirs or assigns with the Pawtuxet Land Owners, were as follows:—

1. Thomas James conveyed his entire holdings in Providence and Pawtuxet to William Field in 1640.
2. John Greene sold in 1647 to Benedict Arnold.
3. Robert Cole sold in 1654 to Zachary Rhodes.
4. Thomas Olney sold at different times to William Field, William Arnold and Stephen Arnold.
5. John Throckmorton sold his interest to Richard Parker, and it was purchased in 1659 by William Carpenter.
6. Francis Weston died in 1645 and left no children. His heir was Richard Harecutt. Harecutt sold to William Field in 1651.

It is therefore very plain that none of these could have been the "father" so often alluded to in the papers. The other two men of the original thirteen were Richard Waterman and William Harris.

Richard Waterman died in 1673, leaving one son and two daughters. His son Resolved had died in 1670, aged 32. Nathaniel, the other son, was living in 1708, but both daughters were dead. The allusions in the paper to "my father" are not in consonance with the life of Richard Waterman. He certainly did *not* purchase the right of Ezekiel Holliman in Pawtuxet lands, and unless he did purchase it he must not be considered as the "father" of the writer of the paper, and no one but the purchaser was the writer's "father."

Lastly, William Harris "settled by his meddow"—and went "to Boston to answer complaint of Mr. Arnold and Mr. Carpenter"—and informed Governor Dudley (not Endicott or

Governor Winthrop) on July 31, 1650, in the case of Robert Cole and William Carpenter *vs.* William Harris, that "he was one of the purchasers of Providence," and William Harris bought Mr. Holliman's right in 1651. (See Early Records, Vol. VIII., p. 135.) He submitted, in 1657, to arbitration in the case of William Carpenter *vs.* William Harris, and the arbitrators named by Carpenter were Mr. Hathorn and Mr. Luskier of Boston, and Mr. Harris named John Easton and Mr. Torrey of Rhode Island, the same men spoken of in this paper as the arbitrators. William Harris "had several suits with Warwick men, for the meddows and lands of Tuskewonk." His son, Andrew Harris, "Kept himself free from his fathers business," and although named as co-executor with his sister, Howlong, declined to serve, and left his sister and his "aged crasie mother" to settle the many difficulties attending her father's estate.

Howlong Harris married Arthur Fenner, and was living in 1708, and the story as told by her of her "father" is the story of William Harris—and the paper is in her handwriting.

Respectfully, GEO. T. PAINE.

For the purpose of giving our readers an opportunity of deciding for themselves the question of authorship of the paper published in our October number, photo-engravings are here inserted of a portion of that paper and of a portion of a letter written and signed by her.

The original letter can be found at the Record Commissioner's Office, and is No. 17,787 of the "Providence Town Papers."

It will be noticed that Mrs. Fenner, like Lord Timothy Dexter, thought that punctuation marks were entirely unnecessary, and if any reader wanted them he was at liberty to supply them. By a comparison of letters and words which occur in both papers the similarity of the handwriting is apparent.

The full text of the signed letter is as follows, viz. :

Louing Son Thomas ffenner I haue bin much concerned in my mind how to get the ingredience to make Rufus his pill it came into my mind that you might happily haue some Trusty traueler come to your house you might send a note to the Apothecary I haue writ a note in case a Traueller come to your house that you judge you can trust to send by if

you judg it two diffecult to send for all the ingredience if you can send but for one ounce of Allous* and half an ounce of Sene† if not for my self that I take such care about the pills but in cheef for you two brothers and your families

Son I thak you for your loue and care in what you left at your brothers for me and as for what you Spake of more I desire you to keep it for I haue a request of you off a nother matter which will seem to me to be a greater kindness to me that you will this Spring be pleased to diuide the house Land and orchard which your ffather gaue to you and your brothers and that you draw up writtings betewne you of your diuision it has prest much upon my spirit about the diuision euer sence your father deseaced because your father spake to me seuerall times to mind to hasten his two sons to diuide the Lands he gaue them in his will forthwith to diuide without delaying of time and said that he had met with trouble arose by his neglect to be a warning to his Sons your ffather bid me put his sons in mind to take discharges when they had paide the Leguses to the Legutees . Son Thomas I pray let not these Lines be any ocacion of offence either to you or your brother it was your ffathers desire and command and my desire to haue it purformed Son it is very Like you think it straing that I haue not come to your house all this winter I haue not bin well this six weeks and I haue bin waitting neere a mounth to goe down to majour Hopkins, his house about my farme my loue to you self and all yours I desire the wellfare of you all

ffebbruary the 26

your mother

1705 or 6

Howlong ffenner

*Alloes. †Senna.

RHODE ISLAND REVOLUTIONARY DEBT.

Within a year the editor of this quarterly has received two letters asking if Rhode Island had ever repudiated her debts, and repeated visits have been made to the library with the same object in view. The writer of one of these letters spoke of having seen in a neighboring State an inscription on a sepulchral monument stigmatizing Rhode Island as a repudiator of her debts. No direct answer was given to the enquiry, but the writers of both letters were invited to call at the cabinet and examine for themselves a collection of documents that have a direct bearing on the subject of their enquiry.



Fold-out Placeholder

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Fold-out Placeholder

This fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted at a future date.

One letter referred to an enterprising citizen of Providence, who built, nearly three-score years ago, a fine steamship for the transportation of merchandise and passengers between Providence and New York. The model of this steamship — named after himself, "The John W. Richmond"—is preserved in the Museum of this society.

After becoming well-known through successful business enterprises, Dr. Richmond, the builder of said steamship, became the champion of claims made upon the treasury of the State for services rendered in the Revolutionary War. He displayed characteristic zeal, energy and persistence. He struggled long and hard to secure the recognition of numerous claims by the General Assembly of the State. In the *Boston Courier* of March, 1852, he made the following statement with his signature attached to it :—

"The State of Rhode Island is a Repudiating State."

[Signed] JOHN W. RICHMOND.

Failing to accomplish the object of his ambition his spirit was at length embittered and his life was saddened. From the date of his failure it seemed to be his special mission to defame his native State, representing it on various occasions as degraded and disgraced. Thus came about the following inscription on a monument which a gentleman belonging to a southern State found in a small graveyard in that part of Stonington, Conn., which is near the borough :—

DR. JOHN W. RICHMOND,

Born Sept. 25, 1775 :

Died March 4, 1857.

HENRIETTA RICHMOND,

Wife of

Dr. John W. Richmond,

Born Nov. 27, 1782 :

Died July 17, 1849.

JOHN H. RICHMOND,

Born March 8, 1816 ;

Died Aug. 8, 1868.

On one side of the monument is the following : —

“ When Rhode Island, by her legislature from 1844 to 1850, repudiated her Revolutionary debt, Dr. Richmond removed from that state to this Borough and selected this as his family burial place, unwilling that the remains of himself and family should be disgraced by being a part of the common soil of a repudiating state.”

In another place is the following : —

“ A trust fund is given the town of Stonington* to keep this ground, walls, etc., in good repair forever.” “See town records 1850 & 1851.”

The editor is indebted to the Rev. J. O. Barrows, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Stonington, Conn., for a copy of the inscriptions.

Dr. John Wilkes Richmond was born in Little Compton, R. I. He died in Philadelphia. The dates of his birth and death are given above. His father, Benjamin Richmond, was, like himself, a highly respected physician. Dr. Richmond's name is in the directories of Providence from 1826 to 1852. He resided during this period in a house still standing on South Main Street. He was connected with some of the best families in the State. He graduated from Rhode Island College in 1794, and had for one of his classmates Samuel W. Bridgman, the first mayor of Providence. In the Brown University Historical Catalogue, 1764-1894, is a detailed account of Dr. Richmond's publications.

In 1855, Dr. Richmond issued the second edition of an octavo volume of 208 plus xvi. pages, entitled, “ Rhode Island Repudia-

*A private letter (November 7, 1896) addressed to the editor by the Hon. Richard A. Wheeler, Jurist and Historian, ends as follows :—

“ If you have not a copy of our Town Records relative to the Richmond monument, I will have one made and send it to you. Please let me know whether you have such record or not.

“ I was present at the Town Meeting here when the Richmond vote, so called, was passed, and did not approve of it. Dr. Richmond's complaint was exclusively between himself and the State of Rhode Island, and the town of Stonington belonging to another Jurisdiction, should have had nothing to do with his troubles, much less to agree to keep up his denunciation of his native State on his monument forever. My town history will have something to say about the matter; that is about the propriety of accepting and perpetuating the Dr.'s anger.”

tion, or the History of the Revolutionary Debt of Rhode Island, in three chapters, by John W. Richmond." This volume doubtless embodies the substance of several pamphlets and newspaper articles previously printed.

Another volume of about the same size in this library is made up of pamphlets, newspaper articles and reports of legislative committees. This volume is of a miscellaneous character, representing both sides of the question at issue. Some of the ablest men at that time in the State were engaged in this controversy. Of this number the Hon. J. Russell Bullock of Bristol is probably the only survivor. One of the pamphlets in this second volume is entitled, "History of the Alleged State Debt of Rhode Island, by Wilkins Updike," issued in 1846. Mr. Updike handles the subject without gloves. The following paragraph extracted from his sketch indicates the views entertained by Mr. Updike and many other intelligent, discriminating and highly respected citizens of the State.

WILKINS UPDIKE'S VIEWS.

"I have been long convinced that the obscurity of the origin of these claims has been the only reason that they have gained any credit at all. We have talked of a 'State Debt,' we have called it a 'State Debt,' and the Legislature have been pressed by outdoor influence or from political causes, and have made some partial appropriations to buy them up, and many people now believe that such a debt validly and legally exists against the State. But when it shall be made to appear, that the whole subject has been a fraud from beginning to end, a stupendous fraud by an unprincipled band of politicians, and has since been followed up by an as unprincipled knot of speculators, stimulated by occasional appropriations, and who are now attempting to thrust their hands into the treasury as mere speculators instead of honest creditors; it is hoped that the Legislature will adopt the same course with these claims that they did with their twin brother the 'Crory balances'* by passing a quieting act and stopping forever further frauds upon the State. Recollect, the Crory balances was once passed through the House of Representatives, but rejected in the Senate."

*An account of the attempted fraud on the treasury, called the "Crory Balances," is found at the close of the 2d volume referred to above.

The skill and ability displayed by Dr. Richmond in connection with his steamship and other enterprises, were fully recognized in this community. He became widely known and respected. When at length he assumed to be the defender of the rights of Revolutionary soldiers and their heirs, he began his career on vantage ground. He possessed the tact, skill and personal address that were decidedly in his favor. Some soldiers and descendants of soldiers promptly welcomed him as their friend and champion. He won others by expressions of sympathy and promises of aid. He secured the coöperation of some other persons who were presumed to exert a controlling influence in the counsels of the State by means that were whispered, rather than spoken aloud. At length an impression became general that a game was being played, not in the interest of soldiers and their descendants, but of a gang of unprincipled and unscrupulous speculators. Several damaging transactions were exposed. Bills for which large sums of money were expected were ridiculed as Dr. Richmond's *shin plasters*. He himself became at length the butt of ridicule. He could not or would not bear up under the pressure that was put upon him. He left the State, but the State left him before his monument was erected. The writer of this paragraph having been, during the discussion of the State debt question,

"A looker on here in Vienna,"

would withhold these reminiscences rather than darken the memory of any of the persons whose hopes of realizing a fortune from State Debt scrip were so cruelly disappointed. But the reputation of the State ought not, in his opinion, to suffer from personal considerations.

Dr. Richmond posed as a martyr, but his claims as such will hardly be allowed by the present generation of Rhode Island citizens. Attention is here invited to a paper which, though unfinished, unsigned and undated, is in the hand-writing and breathes the spirit of a man who served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and then devoted the remnant of his life from 1783 to 1854 to the cause of universal peace, popular education, and State and National history. The following paper from the pen of Deacon John Howland, the second president of this society, needs no endorsement.

JOHN HOWLAND ON THE REVOLUTIONARY DEBT.

“Having observed in one of our public papers a sketch of the debate in the House of Representatives on the origin of the old four per cent notes issued by the general treasurer many years ago, in which some of the members confounded them with what were called the ‘Crary balances,’ which had no connection with these notes, I have deemed it advisable to state, as far as my recollection will serve, the principal circumstances relating to the origin of the debt for which these notes were issued. It is an established fact, which the history of the times and the public documents will show, that Rhode Island performed more military service and furnished more money and supplies in the course of the Revolutionary War than any other of the thirteen States in proportion to her limits and population. This in a great measure arose from the enemy’s taking and holding possession of a large portion of our territory for three years, and having by their ships of war the command of all our navigable waters during the whole contest with Great Britain. During this long period Rhode Island had to defend herself against the incursions of the enemy with very inadequate aid from the other States. To establish these positions the writer of this has not at present the time or ability to search the journals of Congress or the records of the State, but will refer to a small pamphlet* published eleven or twelve years since on another subject (the Amount of Pensions Claimed by our Citizens), which will furnish strong collateral evidence of the above statements. This pamphlet was sent on to our members of Congress as the proper medium of transmission to the Treasury and Pension offices, and the Hon. Mr. Burgess handed it there.

“We now return to the old State debt. A considerable portion of it was sunk by a large issue of paper, which was made a tender at par, though it sunk to five dollars in paper for one in silver soon after its issue; but many of the holders of the State certificates doubting if they ever should fare better, took the paper, and their evidence of debt was canceled. The

*No trace of the pamphlet here referred to can be found in this library, and none in either the Record and Pension offices of the War Department, nor in the Pension Commissioner’s office, Washington.—[Ed.]

paper bills were finally called in and paid one dollar in specie for fifteen in paper. This operation considerably lessened the first large amount of the State debt, and with what was afterwards assumed and paid by the United States left the balance in what is now the old four per cent notes, and for even the interest of which no provision is made.

"This was afterwards reduced by appropriations made at different times which were applied to the purchase of claims against the State, and the balance which still remained after all these operations now exists in the four per cent notes issued by order of the General Assembly and signed by the treasurer.

"This State, it is well known, did not adopt the Constitution of the United States till more than a year after the other States, and before we were represented in Congress, Mr. Sedgwick of Massachusetts had brought forward the resolution for the United States to assume the funding and paying the debts of the several States, which they had incurred in the prosecution of the War of the Revolution. While the subject was in discussion in the House of Representatives, this State adopted the Constitution, and the General Assembly being called, immediately appointed two senators to represent us in the Senate, Joseph Stanton and T. Foster, and what was the strangest thing that perhaps ever happened in any State, they instructed them to oppose the assumption of the State debts by the United States; and every member who voted for these instructions evidently voted against his own interest as well as against the interest of the whole State, as the State had no revenue or any means of paying the debt except by dry taxes. Before our senators could arrive and take their seats, the act had passed the House and gone up to the Senate, where our senators had to comply with their instructions. It then remained to fix the amount to be assumed from each State. In this case the House had the most to do, as there the business originated, and in that House every State, except Rhode Island, was represented, our members not having been chosen to take a seat. This may in some measure account for wrong done to Rhode Island by the small amount of our debt assumed, which did not amount to half of what we were entitled to. Those States which had able speakers on the floor got their full pro-

portion and some of them much more. Georgia had more than the State ever owed and they were obliged to go home and create a claim to receive it, while the little State of Rhode Island was left with a vast sum unassumed.

"This is a short history of our State debt for faithful services and supplies furnished in the War of the Revolution. At two different periods appropriations have been made for the purchase of a portion of the notes, and the balance now remains due in notes of the general treasurer bearing interest of four per cent."

The foregoing statement of Mr. Howland will be read with interest even at this late day. Seeing a notice in the papers that the Revolutionary debt was being discussed in the General Assembly, he began his sketch probably with the view of exerting his influence in favor of truth and justice, and his failure to complete the sketch doubtless resulted from demands made upon his time in other directions, together with a distaste for political discussion. His remarks about a serious financial mistake made by the State on its adoption of the Constitution are worthy of special attention. Other States thought that all debts incurred in securing the independence of the Nation should be paid by the Nation. Rhode Island said, "No; let each State pay its own debts," and it instructed its senators and representatives to vote in accordance with this principle. The result of its misdirected effort was loss of time and loss of influence. Rhode Island became, however, reconciled to the course of action taken by the National Government. She sought earnestly to liquidate her Revolutionary debt in the same way as the other States. She accordingly collected pay and muster rolls and other pertinent official documents, and, we are informed, sent them to Washington to establish her claim upon the national treasury. She was only partially successful. She suffered then and has suffered since from her early mistake. A special misfortune to be named in this connection, is the loss of many muster and pay rolls and other original official documents said to have been sent to Washington as certificates of national indebtedness to the State. It is said by some that these original certificates were destroyed when

Washington was burnt by the British in the War of 1812. Whether the statement is true or not, it is evident that the State has lost in this or in some way many of its valuable Revolutionary records. This branch of its history is therefore very imperfect.

The "Crary Balance," referred to by both Mr. Howland and Mr. Updike, was as follows:—

In 1785, the military accounts of the officers and soldiers of the regiments of Colonels Crary, Elliot and Topham were collected and settled. All bills of these regiments were paid and a receipt, signed by the officers in behalf of all the members of their regiments, was given together with a pledge never to ask for more compensation for their services. After the lapse of more than a quarter of a century, bills with interest thereon for the same services were brought forward and pressed for consideration; and the House of Representatives, deeply affected by a sense of the injustice and wrong that had been done to patriotic soldiers promptly voted the sums asked; but, before the bill could be got through the Senate, the receipted bill was found together with the annexed pledge never to ask for more pay. Thus a cunningly devised plan to enrich politicians and speculators was defeated and the reputation of all the persons who were known to be engaged in the plot was seriously damaged. Dr. Richmond's enterprise failed in a like way. He succeeded in carrying his bill through the House of Representatives, but at that point damaging exposures were made. His reputation was injured, his *ipse dixit* then ceased to command respect. He broke down as an advocate of soldiers' and sailors' claims. He ceased to be regarded either as a patriot or a friend of patriotic soldiers and sailors.

Mr. Howland gives the opinion that some valid four per cent notes were unpaid at the time of his writing. A citizen of Providence, who by patient study is well-versed in the financial affairs of that time, assents to his view of the matter. At the same time he acquits the Legislatures of that period of blame. He says they were in a sea of trouble resulting from a debased currency, defective accounts or no accounts at all, and a great number of counterfeit bills (some of them belonging to the Colonial period), the holders of which presented a bold front against

legislation that did not recognize all their claims. As an illustration of this statement, Dr. Richmond had one inherited claim that was recognized by all as valid. For this he could have taken the cash, but he said, "No;" and all his fellow-claimants said, "No; pay all of us or none of us!" The best citizens, like Mr. Howland, seeing the serious entanglement and the obstinacy of these men, and despairing of any settlement that did not involve the utter financial ruin of the State, withdrew from the contest and devoted themselves to other pursuits.

In the War of 1812, the State did not escape all trouble from its failure to keep and preserve accurate and well-adjusted accounts. The part it took in that war is worthy of a special article in which some illustrious names would appear. Some of the material for this article exists in this cabinet.

In concluding this paper it is pleasant to note the fact that the State has profited by experience; for in the War of the Rebellion it took care of its accounts, as is clearly shown by the admirable volumes brought out under the editorial supervision of our late Adjutant General, Elisha Dyer. It is now generally understood that careful accounts and book-keeping are as needful in governmental affairs as in mercantile business, and that a debased currency is not only unfavorable to the business of a country, but tends to demoralize its population.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES.

RIVERPOINT, R. I., Nov. 4th, 1896.

HON. AMOS PERRY, Sec'y.

My dear Sir:

Desiring to make up my genealogy as full and as accurate as possible, I have been obliged to take more time than I anticipated when I promised it for publication in the quarterly; however, here it is, at your service. I have had a number of these sheets printed for distribution among my relatives. You will observe that the genealogy of the Greenes goes

back to A. D. 1543. The record of these generations is undoubtedly correct from Robert ¹ of Gillingham; Gen. Geo. S. Greene, however, says, in a recent letter to me, that there is good reason to believe that our ancestry can be traced as far back as to the time of Edward III., King of England, to Sir Henry Greene, who was then Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. About 1359, Sir Henry Greene de Boketon (now Boughton) and his eldest son, Thomas, purchased the manor of Norton Davie in Northamptonshire, and from his name the manor was called Greene's Norton, by which it is still known. Sir Henry's father was named Thomas Greene de Boketon. The former died in 1370, was buried at Boughton, and left his estate of Greene's Norton to his eldest son, Sir Thomas, who died in 1391, and whose successors were:—

Thomas ² married Mary, daughter Richard, Baron Talbot; died 1417.

Thomas ³ married Phillippa, daughter Robert, 4th Baron Ferrars; died 1417(?).

Thomas ⁴ married Matilda, daughter Sir John Throckmorton, formerly sub-treasurer of England; died 1462.

Thomas ⁵ married Marina, daughter John Beler, Esq.; died 1489.

Thomas ⁶ married Jane, daughter Sir John Fogge; died 1506.

Matilda, the second daughter of Sir Thomas Greene ⁶ married Sir Thomas Parr of Kendall, county of Westmoreland. Their daughter Catharine, or Kate, Parr married first Edward, son of Lord Borough; secondly, John Neville, Lord Latimer; thirdly, became the sixth and last wife of King Henry VIII., and after the death of the king she married Thomas, Lord Seymour. She died in 1548. Her brother, William Parr, became Baron Parr, Marquis of Northampton, and finally, through the influence of his sister, Queen Catharine, the Earl of Essex.

Lord Chief Justice Greene's second son, Sir Henry ², by inheritance from his mother's brother, Sir John de Drayton, became Lord of Drayton and owner of Drayton manor. Espousing the cause of Richard II. and possessing himself of Bristol Castle, with the intention of defending it to the last,

he was betrayed by the garrison into the hands of the Duke of Lancaster, in 1389, who ordered him, together with Lord Scrope, Earl of Wilts, and Sir John Busby to be beheaded.

After the Duke of Lancaster became King Henry IV., he restored to Sir Henry's son, Ralph, all the rights and estates of his father which were confiscated. Ralph also was, by inheritance from his mother, Lord de Mauduit, and, dying without issue, his brother John, then a minor of eighteen years of age, became his heir. Ralph died in 1417, and John in 1433, being succeeded by his son Henry, who left no male heirs, and was the last of the name who possessed Drayton manor. The ownership of this celebrated estate passed into various hands until it became the property of Lady Elisabeth, daughter Charles, Earl of Berkeley who now possesses it.

The Greenes of Wiltshire, and those of Northamptonshire, had the same coat of arms; namely, Azure, three bucks trippant, Or, and for a crest a buck's head erased, Or. It is supposed, therefore, that the south of England family were a branch of the more northern one.

Possibly the Greenes of Rhode Island may feel an interest in tracing out this line and restore the link apparently lost between Robert ¹ who was living at Bowridge Hill, Gillingham, Dorsetshire, England, in 1543, and the last Henry Greene de Drayton, or his relatives, of Boughton. The probable expense of this research would be only a few hundred dollars.

Our descent from the Northampton families, not being proved at present, I do not, of course, include it in my list.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY L. GREENE.

<p>Col. Christopher ⁸, Judge Philip ⁷, Major Job ⁶, Dep. Gov. John ⁵, John ⁴, Richard ³, Richard ², Robert ¹, of Bowdridge Hill, Gillingham, Eng., Warwick, R. I.</p>		<p>Col. Christopher ⁸, Judge Philip ⁷, Major Job ⁶, Dep. Gov. John ⁵, John ⁴, Richard ³, Richard ², Robert ¹, of Bowdridge Hill, Gillingham, Eng., Warwick, R. I.</p>	
<p>Job Greene ⁹. B 1759, November 9. M 1785, November 29. D 1808, August 23. Centreville, R. I.</p>		<p>Abigail Rhodes. B 1768, October 28. D 1845, April 18.</p>	
<p>Simon Henry Greene ¹⁰. B 1799, March 31. M 1822, March 13. D 1885, April 26. Clyde, Warwick, R. I.</p>		<p>Caroline Cornelia Aborn. B 1802, February 13. D 1889, March 29.</p>	
<p>James (Samuel ⁷, Samuel ¹). B 1734, September 28. M 1755, November 16. D 1801, March 31. Pawtuxet and Providence, R. I.</p>		<p>Hannah Westgate (Robert). B 1735, June 1. D 1819, May 19.</p>	
<p>Simon Rhodes. B 1716, January 24. M D 1784, April 22. Stonington, Conn.</p>		<p>Holliman (Benjamin, Abel, George) B 1755, July 3. M 1778, September 20. D 1835, August 1. Cranston, R. I.</p>	
<p>Anne Babcock (James ², James ¹). B 1732, March 30. D 1791, November 7.</p>		<p>Sarah Allen (Capt. Nehemiah). B 1757, March 18. D 1822, December 9.</p>	

HENRY LEHRE GREENE.

Born 1825, March 31.

Bleacher and Calico Printer.

Jeremiah Whipple ² (David ² , John ¹). B 1683, June 26. M 1711, Nov. 22. D 1721, May 14. Attleboro, Mass. Deborah Bucklin (Joseph ¹ ,) B 1692, May 15. D	Thomas Bowen ⁴ (Richard ³ , Thomas ² , Richard ¹). B 1689, Aug. 20. M 1710, Aug. 8. D 1774, July 17. Rehoboth, Mass. Sarah Hunt ³ (Ephraim ² , Peter ¹). B 1690 + D 1777, Aug. 31.	James Dexter ³ (John ² , Gregory ¹). B 1691, Feb. 22. M D 1731, Nov. 7. Smithfield, R. I. Hannah Wilkinson ³ (Josias ² , Lawrence ¹). B D		
Jeremiah Whipple. B 1716, Mar. 5. M 1743, Feb. 24. D 1801, Jan. 27. Cumberland, R. I.	Hannah Bowen. B 1721, April 30. D 1814, May 6.	James Dexter. B 1721, Feb. 24. M 1746, Aug. 14. D Cumberland, R. I.	Alitheia Walker. B D	
Jeremiah Whipple. B 1748, Mar. 27. M 1791, Mar. 31. D 1819, Feb. 15. Cumberland, R. I.	Nancy Dexter. B 1761, Dec. 22. D 1856, Apr. 6.			

JEREMIAH WHIPPLE.

Born 1802, Jan. 9. Died 1852, Jan. 25.

John Butler ² (John ² , Nicholas ¹). B 1652. M D 1738. M. Vineyard, Mass. Priscilla Norton ² (Nicholas ¹). B D	John Clay. B M D M. Vineyard, Mass. Anne. B D	Simon Athearn. B 1642. M 1665, Oct. 4. D 1714, Feb. 26. M. Vineyard, Mass. Mary Butler ³ (John ² , Nicholas ¹). B 1652. D 1741, April 8.	Pain Mayhew ⁴ (Mathew ³ , Thomas ² , Thomas ¹). B 1677, Oct. 31. M 1699, Dec. 8. D 1761, May 8. M. Vineyard, Mass. Mary Rankin ² (Andrew ¹). B D 1753, Feb. 17.
Samuel Butler. B 1683. M D 1765, Feb. 24. M. Vineyard, Mass.	Elizabeth Clay. B D	Jethro Athearn. B 1693, June 30. M 1720, Sept. 18, D 1784, Feb. 3. M. Vineyard, Mass.	Mary Mayhew. B 1700, Sept. 26. D 1778, April 7.
Samuel Butler. B 1727, Dec. 14. M 1753, April 5. D 1813, June 29. Edgartown, Mass., Providence, R. I.		Mary Athearn. B 1731, Sept. 16. D 1819, Jan. 1.	

CYRUS BUTLER.

Born 1767, May 16. Died 1849, August 22.

Merchant, Providence, R. I.

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY NAME

Is quite prominent in New England. Roger Williams and his branch of the Williams family are by this time pretty well known throughout the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Robert Williams settled in Roxbury, and his branch of the Williams family is set forth in an octavo volume of good size. Now we are introduced to Richard Williams, who was one of the earliest settlers of Taunton, whose citizens have lately united, under the auspices of the Old Colony Historical Society, in honoring his memory and tracing his family in different parts of our country. To our surprise, the Taunton Williamses are here in Providence, are members of this Society, and occupy prominent business and official positions here. Friday, the 30th of October, was WILLIAMS DAY in the city of Taunton. A part of the exercises took place in the Historical rooms, a part in the First Congregational Church, and a part in the Unitarian Church. The historical discourse on that occasion, by the Hon. J. H. Drummond of Portland, Maine, will, it is expected, be soon printed.

At the request of our late associate, Stephen Randall, Esq., the writer of this paragraph once asked the distinguished author of the "Rise of the Dutch Republic," if he had known any relationship between Roger Williams, the founder of the Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, and Roger Williams the Welshman, who was distinguished as the fighting admiral of the Dutch Navy. Mr. Motley in replying to the inquiry, remarked that though he could testify to the fact that many distinguished men had been born with the family name of Williams, he had discovered no relationship between the Roger Williams who was the first to embody the principle of religious liberty in a civil form and Roger Williams, the Welshman, who bravely fought, as an admiral of the Dutch Navy, for the independence of the Dutch Republic.

BURNING OF THE GASPEE.

Can any of the readers of the quarterly inform me where portraits can be found of the following persons, who participated in the "Gaspee" affair :—

Samuel Dunn, Benjamin Page, Turpin Smith, John B. Hop-

kins, Joseph Bucklin, Simeon H. Olney, John Brown, Ephraim Bowen, Joseph Tillinghast, John Mawney.

EDWARD FIELD,
Providence, R. I.

Parents' names desired of Stukeley Smith, who was drowned in "Great Gale" of 1815, as lately noted in *Providence Journal*.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND CULLINGS.

THE GENEALOGICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC-GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

The fiftieth volume of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register has recently been placed upon our shelves. It is the largest volume of the entire series, containing 612 pages. Its title page is followed by an index of subjects, and then comes an index of all the genealogies and pedigrees that are contained in all the volumes. The volume ends with an index of persons followed by an index of subjects. These indexes can hardly fail to commend the work to persons who have occasion to consult it. They enhance the value of the work to students of history and genealogy, enabling them to consult it with the least amount of time.

These fifty volumes constitute by themselves a genealogical encyclopedia of surpassing excellence and value. Honor to the society that has brought out this great work! Honor to the skill, industry and scholarship that have done so much to encourage and facilitate the study of family history in our country!

In addition to these fifty volumes the society has printed five large octavo volumes entitled "Memorial Biographies;" annual proceedings from 1871 to 1896, constituting two thick octavo volumes; half a dozen smaller volumes and sundry pamphlets. One means of the success of the New England Society is, that each officer and each committee is elected for service, not for ornament, and not to act dummy or to accomplish some private ends. Again, it being understood that

money and books are a *sine-qua-non* of success, officers, committees and members take part in gathering money into the treasury and books into the library, and thus the whole society is benefited. The volumes entitled "Memorial Biographies," have upon their title page, "Towne Memorial Fund." This means that they are printed by the income of a fund established by the late William B. Towne for this purpose. Like funds would serve a very good purpose here.

A special acknowledgment is due from the Rhode Island Society to the New England Society. For not a dollar has ever been paid from the former society to the latter for all these works. The benefit has resulted from a system of exchanges among historical societies in which the stronger institution gives to the weaker more than it receives, provided the courtesy is appreciated and acknowledged. It is to be hoped that the New England Society will continue right on its good work and make as marked improvement in the next half century as it has made in the last. Meanwhile the Rhode Island Society need not despair of a good time to come. For, though it is about a quarter of a century older than the New England, it may yet learn and profit by the lesson that cash, enterprise and scholarship are means of accomplishing objects for which the society was founded.

THE RHODE ISLAND INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

The Rhode Island Institute of Instruction held its 52d annual meeting on the last three days of October. It was a notable gathering of teachers and exhibition of the educational forces of the State, presenting a striking contrast to the little company of teachers and committee-men that met in the council chamber of the old Market House, now the Board of Trade, fifty-two years ago to take the first step towards the organization of this institute. While there were at that time persons of eminent attainments and scholarship occupied as teachers, teaching was not recognized as a profession. It was often a mere means of attaining a profession. It was a temporary business in which many persons engaged because they could find nothing else to do. Comparatively little interest was then manifested or felt in our schools. It was just after Horace Mann had uttered his famous saying,—“If you wish to disperse a mob, announce a

lecture on education and you will succeed." The institute was established to elevate the character of the schools and to promote the cause of education in the State. It has served its purpose. Through its agency light was diffused. A Normal School was established. Better teachers were secured. Better modes of instruction were adopted. Better ideals of the means and objects of education were set forth. On Friday forenoon, October 30th, the writer of this note heard two lectures in Infantry Hall. All the seats in that great hall were occupied and many persons were standing. Good order was preserved and profound attention was given to the lecturers. The good character of the audience was manifest at a glance. They were mostly teachers, listening with a distinct object in view. Such a goodly assemblage could not have been secured half a century ago. In the afternoon of the same day the institute was held in four sections. One section was in the High School, one section in the Manual Training High School, and two sections were in halls of the Christian Association building. In all these sections were indications of interest and life. With such observations we are encouraged to hope and expect a higher order of civilization and a higher and better life in the State, though we are warned right here that the machinery now employed and the large expense incurred in connection with our schools are likely to injure rather than benefit our people. We heard croakings like these in 1840, when six large new grammar school buildings were erected in Providence at an expense of \$150,000. We will hope that good will result from the great Normal School and State House, though they involve a very large expense and a heavy tax upon our people.

At the first meeting of the institute referred to above, one speaker questioned the expediency of establishing the institute on the ground that, at best, it could be sustained but for a brief period. At a later numerously attended meeting the same speaker predicted that the institute would survive a hundred years. It is safe to say that so long as the high ideals of teaching and teachers put forth at its last meeting are held by members, the existence and usefulness of the institute cannot be questioned.

Only one member of the vanguard of the early educational forces of the State was observed at this meeting. It was the

Hon. Henry Barnard, who merits the honor of being the founder of the institute. He was there with his white locks and flowing beard, as gay and cheery as the youngest. Mr. Barnard is the sole survivor of the Spartan band which more than half a century ago led the great movement of the country in favor of public schools and popular education. The names of Dr. Barnard's renowned associates, all of whom the writer of this note met at one or more meetings of the American Institute of Instruction, are Horace Mann, Dr. S. G. Howe, Bishop Alonzo Potter, Prof. Joseph Henry, George B. Emerson, William C. Woodbridge, John G. Carter, Jacob and John S. C. Abbott, Gideon F. Thayer, John Kingsbury, Francis Wayland, and many others; all gone, but himself left, not to meditate, as did Marius among the ruins of Carthage, but to rejoice at witnessing the fruits of his labors.

Dr. Barnard was elected a corresponding member of this Society in 1838, and is to-day the senior corresponding member; but we have an active member eight years his senior who regularly attends our meetings,—Samuel Foster, Esq. Dr. Barnard's portrait was painted and given to this Society nearly half a century ago, as an expression of honor for his services to the cause of education in this State. This portrait represents him as he looked when he was the school commissioner of the State. A picture of him as he looked and appeared as a member at the late convention in Infantry Hall would be of decided interest.

STATE RECORD COMMISSIONER.

At the May Session of the General Assembly the following act was passed, and since then Governor Lippitt has appointed Mr. R. H. Tilley of Newport to the office named therein.

“Resolved, That the governor be and he is hereby authorized to appoint a person to be known as State Record Commissioner, whose duty it shall be to prepare for the use of the state, a detailed report of the number, kind and condition of the various public records in the custody and under the control of state, city and town officers in this state, and such

parish or church records as may be obtainable relating to extinct or active church organizations in said state, and, as far as possible, of the records and place of deposit in other states relating to the several cities and towns in the State of Rhode Island; and that for the purpose aforesaid the sum of six hundred dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated; and the state auditor is hereby directed to allow such bills for the same as may be approved by the governor, and pay the same from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated."

OUR PUBLICATION.

Mr. Dorr's paper on the controversy between the Proprietors and the Freeholders of Providence is concluded in this number of the quarterly. This paper is in some respects a supplement to Mr. Dorr's "Planting and Growth of Providence," which, when it was printed in 1882, as No. 15 of Mr. Rider's series of Rhode Island Historical Tracts, had for many people the charm of a romance. So interested in it was one of our lady friends, that she read, on getting hold of the book one afternoon, till three o'clock the next morning.

The story of the controversy between the greedy and grasping proprietors and their wiry and persistent antagonists cannot fail to interest many persons when they read it connectedly. Though it may be criticised, it will bear criticism, and be more appreciated therefor. It will be welcomed as a contribution to the early history of these Plantations. Sentiments of regret have been expressed that so interesting a narrative should be printed in several numbers. One correspondent concludes a highly complimentary notice thus: "I care not to read any more detached pieces of the paper; but if it is ever printed as a pamphlet or as a volume by itself, I want a copy of it whether it cost me one, three or five dollars." By turning to page forty-four of this volume of the quarterly, it will be seen that steps have been taken (\$115 subscribed) to bring out this paper in a volume by itself for the benefit of the Society. It may constitute a volume of the collections or not, as may be deemed best.

A proposition has already been made and endorsed by the publication committee, to print in the same way another large and valuable historical work, namely, "The McSparran Diary

and Manuscripts," edited by a member of this Society, Rev. Daniel Goodwin, who is admirably qualified for this task. Though the McSparran papers were freely used by Mr. Updike in compiling his history of the Narragansett Church, some of them may have escaped his notice, and his work has long been out of print.

It may not yet be too late to inquire as to how the McSparran papers should be printed,—whether piecemeal in our quarterly, as Mr. Dorr's paper has been, or in a volume by themselves. The former course will be, it is claimed, unfavorable to both the quarterly and to the McSparran papers. The quarterly cannot answer its purpose or, at least, cannot satisfy the Society that pays for it without variety of contents, and this variety cannot be secured without insisting on having brief articles. So well understood is this matter that some of our best historical quarterlies require two dollars to be paid for every page in excess of eight pages in one article. Failure to act upon this principle has called forth some unfavorable criticisms. The experiment of printing in one number of the quarterly only one, two or three papers encountered at one time a strong opposition.

Aside from serving as a medium of communication between the Society, its members and corresponding institutions, all the space of the quarterly is needed for original documents, short, crisp articles, notes, queries, answers, and genealogical charts. Greater variety is needed and called for, and to secure this variety coöperation is cordially and earnestly invited. With the columns of the quarterly taken up with long articles that are continued through successive numbers, as they have been, very little space is left for original manuscripts of decided interest and of reasonable length, or for other most welcome contributions to our local history.

After careful consideration the opinion is ventured that any long paper, whatever its historical value, should not be printed piecemeal in the quarterly, nor should it occupy most of the space in any one number. It should be printed entire, either as a volume of the Society's collections, or as a number of the Society's series of pamphlets or tracts. Tracts or pamphlets duly numbered may well take the place of miscellaneous pamphlets, many of which have been printed under

the auspices of the Society, and for the lack of method lost sight of, or at least no living person can give an accurate account of them.

Were the editor of this quarterly consulted, he would say, let the McSparran papers constitute No. 1 of the Society's first series of tracts. This tract would probably be followed by other tracts of the same series, which would become in time a valuable portion of the Society's publications.

He would suggest as No. 2 of this series, the Dr. Enos Hitchcock Diary, kept by that learned and patriotic chaplain in the Revolutionary Army and continued till after he became the pastor of the First Congregational Society of Providence. This paper belongs to the Society. Its historic value is known and recognized far beyond the limits of this State. The brief notices it contains of Revolutionary personages, scenes and events will interest many persons.

He would suggest as No. 3, Governor Edward Winslow's "Hypocrisie Unmasked," a paper written and printed in reply to Samuel Gorton's "Simplicities Defence against Seven-headed Policy." The latter paper was printed in London, in 1646, and was edited by the late Judge Staples, and reprinted, in 1835, as Volume 2 of this Society's collections. Only two copies of "Hypocrisie Unmasked" are known to be in this country.

Tract No. 4 may well be "A Short Story of the Rise, Reign and Ruine of the Antinomians, Familists and Libertines that infected the Churches of New England." This work is exceedingly rare, but few copies being in the country. It was printed in London in 1644,—66 pp. 12mo. It is believed to be the work of Governor John Winthrop, with a preface by the Rev. Thomas Weld. It is the most authentic original account of the Puritan side of the Antinomian controversy. This Society has a copy of the original work, a gift from the late William G. Weld. This copy is superbly bound and would be perfect had not the lower edge of its pages been trimmed too closely by the binder. The work has much to do with Rhode Island history in connection with Roger Williams, Samuel Gorton, and Anne Hutchinson.

This enterprise is suggested on the sole responsibility of

the editor. It may and probably will encounter opposition, because it involves the expenditure of money. It is hoped, however, that it will be duly considered and be judged for what it is worth. It remains to be determined whether this Society will be aggressive and progressive, carrying forward the work for which it was organized, or will settle back into its old rut under the plea of economy, alias parsimony. The four papers here named have a direct bearing on Rhode Island history. They are different in their nature and character. They will have different degrees of interest for different persons. One or more persons can readily send an offer to foot the whole bill or any part of it for printing, for the benefit of the Society, either of these tracts. The expense of each can be estimated and approximately ascertained. It will probably be in the vicinity of one hundred dollars, more or less, for each tract, according to the number of pages, number of copies, and quality of paper. Citizens and persons interested to have Rhode Island history rightly understood and represented have an opportunity here to manifest their interest for that object.

As the paper goes to press, ten dollars has been subscribed towards printing each of the first three tracts, and twenty dollars towards printing tract No. 4.

SOUTH CAROLINA REVOLUTIONARY SOCIETY AND AN INQUIRY.

Will not some correspondent furnish the information requested in the following communication?—[ED.]

CHARLESTON, S. C., November 7, 1896.

AMOS PERRY, ESQ.,

Sec'y Rhode Island Historical Society,
Providence, R. I.

Dear Sir: The mayor of the city has referred your letter of the 20th of October, inquiring in regard to the "American Revolution Society of South Carolina," to the Historical Society of the State, of which I am vice-president.

I am able to answer your inquiry. The American Revolution Society of South Carolina was organized on the 4th of July, 1792, and continued its existence for thirty years, when,

in 1823, it appears to have been superseded by the '76 Association, which continued to the breaking-out of the late war. It was the custom of the time for the Cincinnati and the American Revolution Society to unite in the celebration of the 4th of July, by joining in procession, either to St. Philip's or St. Michael's Church, where the Declaration was read, and an oration was delivered. A notice of the address by Christopher R. Greene, to which the California Society refer, is to be found in *The City Gazette and Daily Commercial Advertiser*, of this city, of the date mentioned.

Having answered this inquiry, may I ask in return the following information? The question as to the application of acts of Parliament to the Colonies of America was very early agitated in the Colony of South Carolina, and was a subject of difference between the colonists and the Proprietors, in regard to the *habeas corpus* Act. The question having been settled in England against the application of statutes passed after the establishment of a colony, unless the colony was particularly named, the Assembly in South Carolina, in 1712, passed an elaborate act adopting the English common law, and a compilation of all acts of Parliament, which from the circumstances of the colony were in any way applicable.

These acts, 167 in number, covering 180 pages royal octavo, of the two volumes of the Statutes-at-Large of the State remain to this day really the foundation of the general law of this State, the student or lawyer having constantly to recur to the act of 1712 as the basis of the law he would cite or establish. It was for the time a stupendous undertaking and was without doubt the work of Chief Justice Trott, though, strange to say, the journals of the Assembly do not show it. I am desirous of ascertaining whether there was any similar compilation of the work in any other of the other thirteen colonies at that time or later; and if so, when? Can you tell me if there was any such in Rhode Island; and when the first compilation of the colonial acts of Rhode Island was made?

I am, dear sir,

Very respectfully,

EDWARD MCCRADY,

Vice-President,
Historical Society S. C.

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